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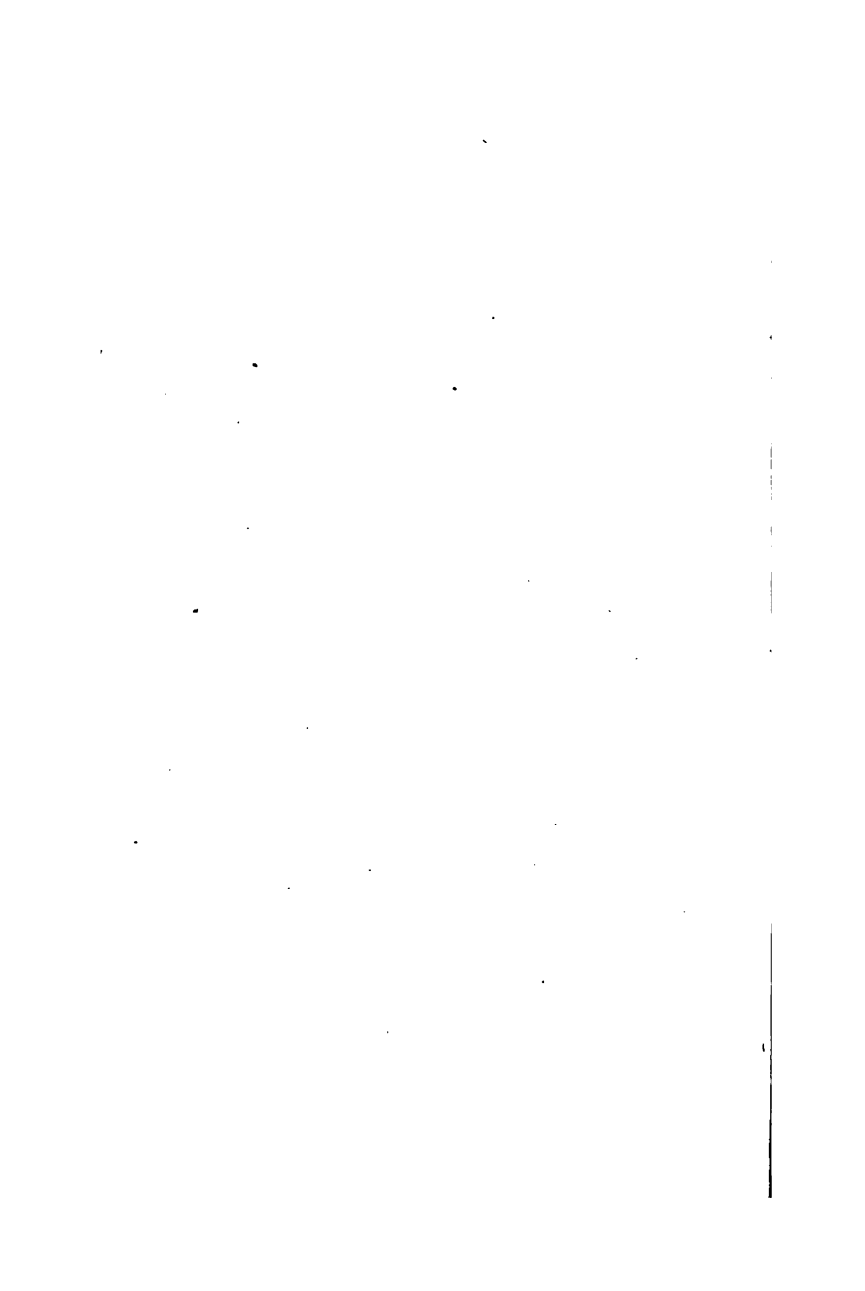


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THE BIBLE AND SPADE;

OR,

CAPTAIN BRENTON'S ACCOUNT

OF THE

Rise and Progress of

THE CHILDREN'S FRIEND SOCIETY:

SHewing ITS TENDENCY

TO PREVENT CRIME AND POVERTY,

AND EVENTUALLY

TO DISPENSE WITH CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND
IMPRESSMENT.



LONDON:

JAMES NISBET AND CO. BERNERS STREET.

MDCCCXXXVII.

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CHILDREN'S FRIEND SOCIETY,
FOUNDED FOR THE
PREVENTION OF JUVENILE VAGRANCY.

OFFICE OF THE INSTITUTION,
No. 9, THROGMORTON STREET, LONDON.

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The mode of obtaining admission for a child into the Asylum from the age of 4 to 14 years is by Tickets: 4s. 3d. per week if under 7 years of age; 4s. per week from 7 to 11; and £15. in money or tickets (when the child, either male or female, has attained its eleventh year) secures it a passage to the Colonies and a good place for life. Further particulars are readily obtained by addressing a line, post paid, to the Secretary, No. 9, Throgmorton-street.

PREFACE.

“ It is a fact acknowledged by all who have studied to improve the happiness of their species, that the work is the more important and the less difficult in proportion as it is undertaken at a tender age.”

Notice sur L'Ecole Rurale pour les Orphelins.

IN presenting to the public the history of the Children's Friend Society, from its foundation up to the present time, I am actuated by an impulse which I find it impossible to resist, persuaded that none have viewed the claims of these unfortunate little beings with more care and solicitude than I have done in all their bearings. If I were to admit, (which I never will,) that the efforts of our Society will induce parents to forsake their children, still there would remain the orphan, perchance the helpless child of him who has fallen in your battles, to claim your care. I have been engaged two and twenty years in inquiring into the manners and habits of the poor; I find that a love of their offspring

is the predominant feeling, although there may be exceptions in this, as in all other general laws of nature. I have found that the vices of the poor spring out of the apathy and morbid sensibility of their superiors, that giving money to street beggars has been the great source of crime, vice, and misery, and that infants *have been crippled* and maimed by unnatural mothers in order to excite commiseration, and to extort that contribution which they found difficult to obtain by other means.

An Institution like that which I now plead for is therefore founded on the first law of nature, self-preservation : by forwarding it you will do a work at once acceptable to God and conformable to the dictates of our blessed Saviour, and you will avert evils which a neglect of these duties has brought upon mighty empires now crumbled into dust.

It is not by multiplying prisons and convict-hulks, but by preventing the youth of your country from entering them, that you will decrease crime. If you protect these helpless creatures in *their* time of need, they

will amply reward you in *yours*. Your duty and your interest are here united, and nothing but judicial blindness can prevent your following the right course.

A gallant and a great officer once asked me, with the kindest motives, "What I would do with those children when they *are* educated?" to which I replied, "What will you do with them when they *are not*?" When we have done our duty by them, we may rely on the goodness of God for their future disposal; having sown the good seed, he will give us the increase. Let me beg of you to read Oberlin's Memoirs, the History of Dusselthal Abbey, an institution exactly similar in nature and principle to our own, and the account of Fellenberg's system at Hoffwyl. You will see that the Germans are surpassing us in acts of philanthropy and christian charity. We have been seven years in the field, and have only received 1340 children, and have 3500 subscribers. But I trust that the numbers of both will, in the next seven years, have so much increased, that we shall find empty prisons and cheerful cottages,

that your soldiers and sailors will be "lions in war and lambs in peace," ashamed of deserving a blow, but not afraid of receiving one, that your trade will be navigated with more skill and safety, and your ships of war manned and conducted without punishment and without impressment, and thus will "The Children's Friend Society" be made at last a great instrument of public good and national prosperity.

Should this little publication meet with a favourable reception, the profits arising from the sale will go to the Schools, and I shall occasionally address the friends of the Society in a book of the same size, with histories drawn from our own storehouse of facts, some of a sad and melancholy cast, others cheering, and shedding a heavenly light into the dark cell and the damp cellar, the dismal abodes of vice and misery, of helpless innocence rearing to crime and infamy, and tending to national ruin.

18, *York-street, Gloucester-place,*
April 25, 1837.

Four years ago I drew up and presented
the following

PETITION

To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual
and Temporal, in Parliament assembled ;

The humble Petition of Edward Pelham
Brenton, a Captain in his Majesty's
Navy,

Humbly sheweth,

That your Petitioner has examined most of
the prisons of the Metropolis, where he has
found many children of a tender age confined
as felons and criminals, to their great detri-
ment and certain ruin ; and farther, that
your Petitioner has discovered among the
poor of the Metropolis an immense number
of children who have no means of gaining
an honest livelihood ; that they are constantly
brought before the civil power for very trivial
offences against the laws ; that your Peti-
tioner has found that the workhouses of the
Metropolis contain many hundreds of chil-
dren who are taught little or nothing that

can be useful to them, and are kept at an expense of £10 per annum each.

Your Petitioner therefore prays, that your Right Honourable House will take the case of these unhappy children into your serious consideration, and apply such remedies as in your wisdom you shall deem fit; and your Petitioner humbly prays that children of either sex under the age of sixteen years may no longer be committed to the common prisons of the land, but be carefully guarded and educated, and kindly disposed of, either at home or in the colonies of his Majesty.

And your Petitioner, &c.

Shall ever pray.

E. P. B.

18, *York-street, Gloucester-place,*
Feb. 11, 1833.

This Petition was presented and read to the Lords by the Bishop of Rochester, and to the Commons by Dr. Lushington, early in the Session of 1833.

HISTORY

OF THE

CHILDREN'S FRIEND SOCIETY.

" I am the servant of posterity."—LORD BACON.

IN the year 1827, or somewhere thereabout, I read in the newspapers an account of a woman named Hibner, a tambour-worker, who, it appeared, had murdered two of her little female apprentices. These unhappy children were poor orphan parish girls of St. Pancras. She had six of them bound to her, and the testimony of the survivors, corroborated by indisputable evidence, exposed to the public a scene of tyranny and cruelty, which, I will venture to say, was never exceeded in the worst of our slave colonies.

The woman was deservedly hanged, though I should say, were a similar instance now to

occur, that hard labour, and *very nearly* solitary confinement for life, would be a much more suitable punishment.

As my mind had for many years previously to this event been turned to the helpless and forlorn condition of the children of the poor, I was particularly struck with this fresh instance of barbarity, and I immediately made myself acquainted with the process of binding parish apprentices, the motives of the guardians of the poor in getting rid of them, as well as those of the generality of tradesmen who apply for them. These poor children are generally orphans, or worse than orphans, having corrupt and drunken parents, whose pernicious example, and neglect of duty, destroys the morals, while their bodily frame is emaciated, and their constitutions ruined, by want of proper food and clothing. The workhouse doors are usually thrown open to such objects as these, provided they can prove their settlement, which is too frequently very difficult, and in this case the child is left to its own resources, either to beg, or to starve, or to steal. We will, however, suppose that the wretched orphan gains its settlement, and is admitted to the workhouse school. Its

prospects in life are little, if any thing, improved ; a defective, and often inhuman, system has never yet produced any good fruits, and the child, if it obtains relief from cold and hunger, has nothing to boast of, in point of education and moral training, above the street beggar. It has rarely fallen to my lot to witness the application of a respectable tradesman for an apprentice out of the work-house ; they are usually needy people, greedy only for the premium of four or five pounds, and this sum is often given to them to take the child away from the parish books ; as soon as the little victim has gone through a probation of five or six weeks, and a *pro forma* enquiry has been made into the character of the applicant. The probationary weeks are a sort of honey-moon, during which the children are kindly treated, in order that they may express the same before the guardians, when the indentures are given, and the money paid ; but after this, I fear, the conduct of the master or mistress too often undergoes a very material change. I have known many instances of the child having being starved, beaten, or driven from the house by cruel treatment, and on enquiry, we have learned

that the receiver of the premium has gone into the Gazette. My opinion has always been, that we do wrong in giving any apprentice fee at all; we should content ourselves with finding the child in good clothing during the first three years of its servitude. The sort of education given in the Workhouse, together with the association of ideas, and the contact with paupers, prevents the application of the really disinterested and generous for any of our children, so that they usually fall to the lot of the lowest description who can afford to keep servants. That such people should have servants cannot be denied, but they should not have the workhouse or parish orphan, whose welfare in life *should be* the peculiar care of those gentlemen who have taken an oath to do their duty as guardians of the poor.

Having served some time in this office, in the Workhouse of St. Mary-le-bone, I have applied myself peculiarly to the welfare of the children in that establishment, as well as to those of the kingdom in general; but hitherto I have failed almost entirely in making any impression on my colleagues unfavourable to a workhouse education, or in convincing them

that a cheaper and far superior mode of training a child has been tried, and found fully to answer, in the Male and Female Asylums of the Children's Friend Society. I have not however, given them up in despair, and I still cherish a hope that they will be brought *once more* to acknowledge the efficacy of our plan—for they *have* approved of it*—and again to entrust us with some more of their children, seeing that their decided and unanimous approbation was bestowed on us for the care we took of ten orphan boys, whom they sent from the Workhouse to the Asylum for six months. They took them away for the reason, as they alleged, that the law was against their being sent out of the country, at the same time unable to deny or disprove that the law allowed them to starve or steal, and then to transport them as felons ; nor did such a contingency excite their sympathies ; all they cared for was to provide for the children according to law,—no matter whether they were starved to death, or beaten by a cruel master, or hanged at Newgate, or sent to the penal colonies as convicts, so long as it were done according to law. I have, however, taken

* See Appendix marked C.

upon me to set this law at defiance; that is, if there be such a law, which I deny. I contend that any child has an undoubted right to choose for itself, and may enter what asylum it pleases, and may embark for any part of the world, however distant, without being accountable to any law whatever, for so doing any more than those who assist them with the means of going.

Whatever ideas the guardians of the poor of St. Mary-le-bone may entertain as to the legality of sending children to our Colonies, in preference to allowing them to become convicts and felons at home, I am happy to say that the guardians of other Parishes concur with our views of the question; and if the merely filling our two schools at Hackney-Wick and Chiswick were the only consideration, the point is already decided in our favour. But with me this is not enough. The rescuing of a few hundred children from the destructive vortex of vice and misery, will not satisfy me, when there are hundreds of thousands in the same predicament;—it is “THE PRINCIPLE” for which I contend; it is whether the system at Hackney Wick, or the Workhouse, is the best; the latter, I con-

tend, has been tried, and found wanting. Ours, on the contrary, has succeeded beyond the most sanguine expectations ; and the experience of the 19th century has solved the important problem, that a human being, in order to be made to love religion and virtue, must be kindly invited and trained, not forcibly dragged to the altar, and beaten till he submits ;—this proposition will be further illustrated. In the mean time, let us say a few words on the system, and the fearful prognostications of those who contend that this country is overstocked with population, and likely to be still more so, even to such a degree as to threaten cannibalism. The guardians of the poor know that labour exceeds the demand, yet they refuse to let the surplus hands drain off in the most natural way. I have read, I think in Father Daniel's History of France, that at one time such was the dreadful effects of famine, from civil dissensions, insecurity of property, and consequent want of cultivation, that they hunted men for food. If such a state of society should ever occur again, it would not assuredly be from over-population, but the reverse. If the check-population philosophers

will read their Bible, they will discover throughout the pages of that sacred and most instructive of all books, that we are commanded to increase and multiply, and replenish the earth ; (Gen. ix. 1,) in the same book we read that Abraham was assured that his posterity should be as the stars of heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea-shore ; —(Gen. xxii. 17,) and this promise was made to him as a reward for his virtue, heroism, and reliance on Divine mercy. We find, (Prov. xiv. 28,) that “in the multitude of people is the king’s honour, but in the want of people is the destruction of the prince.” But should these doubting discontented sceptics reject the Bible “as old wives’ tales,” and beneath their enlightened understanding, (for this is the impious language that some of them hold) perhaps they will condescend to turn over the pages of Mr. Gibbon, a writer who, though no favourite of mine, holds sentiments on questions of faith more congenial with their own.

Never having joined in the hue and cry against the increasing numbers of our fellow-creatures, I cannot help exulting in the testimony of even an infidel author, in sup-

port of the precepts of the Bible ; their united evidence tending so fully and completely " to justify the ways of God to man."

Gibbon (*Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, v. XII. p. 304,) says :—"The progress of industry had produced and enriched the Italian Republics. The era of their liberty is the most flourishing period of their *population*, and agriculture, of their manufactures and commerce." And surely no reader of history, sacred or profane, will dare to impute the overthrow of kingdoms to a *redundancy* of population. The Romans, who were permitted to subdue the nations from the Euphrates to the Frith of Forth, and from the Pillars of Hercules to the Rhine and the Danube, lost all their conquests, and were finally overthrown, for want of Roman soldiers to defend their original Italian Empire ; and although its destruction was a just retribution for the enormous wickedness of the people, still we cannot shut our eyes to the operation of that second cause which was permitted to work their ruin. This is confirmed by the same Author, in his history of the reign of the Emperor Theodosius, and his degenerate sons Arcadius and Honorius.

Had the northern frontier, in the latter part of the fourth and the beginning of the fifth centuries, been defended by Roman citizens, the naked savages of Dacia would not have polluted the imperial soil with their footsteps. But the ignorant and despotic tyrants, who had so long guided the affairs of that vast and overgrown empire, had no idea of the value of human life, or of a native free-born citizen; in their cruel and profligate expenditure of the men entrusted to their care, they never thought of the incalculable riches produced by a numerous, a virtuous, and an industrious population. Thus, while a portion of the scanty remains of the native legions had to face the hardy natives of the north, the numbers of the remainder were diminished, as their bodies were enfeebled, by the corrupt intercourse with the effeminate nations of the east.

One of the most fatal signs of the times was that of the infantry laying aside their armour, while it was eagerly adopted by their naked enemies. The next step towards the final consummation of their ruin, was the introduction to their ranks of those same robust barbarians who had not found the

Roman cuirass and buckler too heavy for them; thus proving' the real weakness of the state, by adding ostensibly to its strength. Prior to this, Julian the Apostate and his successors were, by the wanton destruction of the Roman armies in Asia Minor, subserving the designs of Providence, and accelerating the downfall of a power, which, from its infancy to manhood, and thence to the decrepitude of old age, had shewn itself regardless of the just rights of their fellow-creatures, and knew not the real value of a human being, either to his God or his country.

In that admirable little work, called "Dusselthal Abbey," I find the following sensible observations.

"We are apt to wonder when we hear of the horrors that accompany the irruptions of military ruffians from countries of high repute for humanity and previous intelligence; but we forget that those bands often consist chiefly of orphans and outcasts, who, having been left to grow up in uncultivated wildness, enlist at the first sound of the trumpet, prepared to avenge the wrongs of a neglected childhood and youth upon that society that refused to reclaim or aid in reclaiming them

ere they ripened into maturity of crime, and became fit instruments of cruelty in the hands of a destroyer." *p. 8.*

Let us then take warning by the fate and dissolution of the kingdoms of the earth, that we do not fall into the same errors. It was because their governments neglected and enslaved the poor, both of their own and the neighbouring nations; because they disregarded the precepts of Divine revelation, and trampled on the most sacred rights, that they were given up to a reprobate mind. I admit that in our time we have made undoubted advances in knowledge, and many discoveries tending to improve and expand the sphere of human happiness; that a spirit of benevolence is at work and doing much good; but still we are only emerging from barbarism, —the sun of reason is just beginning to dawn. God grant that it may shine more and more on us, until the perfect day!

The principal object to be attended to is the education and training of the juvenile poor, without any regard to their increasing numbers, for if the population of these islands were quadrupled, there would not be any danger of want of food; on the contrary, the

application of their labour, under wise and just laws, would tend to the increase of the riches and power of the empire.

I admit the bad consequences of early and improvident marriages. I deplore the vices which fill our workhouses and prisons; but I would apply a remedy to these evils by an earlier attention to the habits and manners of the poor. Instead of encouraging the emigration of our best yeomanry, I would use every kind inducement to retain them at home, particularly by raising the price of labour; this would be done by pointing the way to the younger part of the population, shew them the waste lands of our fruitful colonies, and the hard fate which awaits them in our prisons and hulks; teach them the surest mode of providing for their wants; instruct them in the laws of God and man; convince them that their best interests are bound up in the welfare of their neighbours. These views of society are now spreading, and man begins to see that he was never intended to be the murderer or the robber of his fellow, however he might differ with him in colour or speech, or in his mode of worship; there is

an abundance of space in the world for us to live in without encroaching on or annoying each other. In Canada, the British possessions, according to Mr. Montgomery Martin, occupy a space of one hundred and sixty millions of acres. At the Cape of Good Hope we have at least thirty millions; in New Holland the expanse of uncultivated and rich land is incalculable; in our own country and about our own doors, the soil might be made to produce double its present returns; and the Canadas and the Cape of Good Hope would, taking one person to three acres, support more than sixty millions of people.— Away then with the absurd nonsense of over-population.

Let us, contrary to the example set us by the polished barbarians of Greece and Rome, cherish, instruct, and protect the poor, as the real and only source of true wealth. Let us condescend to men of low estate. Let us endeavour to make them faithful and valiant defenders of the empire, let us teach them to love their God, their King, and their Country, so that in the time of need we may receive that assistance from our own country-

men which we have been forced in former times to purchase from foreigners at an extravagant and ruinous price.

During the late war, the want of true-born Britons to fill the ranks of our armies and to man our fleets, was within my own experience severely felt; we had whole regiments of foreigners in British pay, and I have known the complements of our ships to be filled up with men of every nation and language under the sun. I have known our ships of war to be run away with by their crews, too many of whom were foreigners. I have known the inhabitants of a British settlement to be in danger of a general massacre by a French regiment in the British service, and paid by England. Some of our most unfortunate naval actions, at the latter part of the late war, owed their results to the want of Englishmen to fight the guns. We had not men enough; and too many that we had were not of the right sort. There are those, who ought to know better, who would at this moment be glad to transport two millions of our people out of the country;—but what would be the value of land or houses without tenants or labourers? where would the manufacturer,

or the merchant, or the farmer, find their customers? what is the value of land where men are wanting to till it? the Cape of Good Hope, New Holland, and Canada, will answer this question, where the price of a day's labour will purchase the freehold of an acre.

Let us leave the course of emigration to glide gently from the Parent State to the Colonies—taking off the lighter or more youthful bodies, to be transplanted to a virgin soil, where they will take a deep and permanent root—but let us at home take care to send them children uncontaminated by vice, not full-grown felons, disgraced with every crime. We should have no felons to transport, if we took the trouble to educate our children before they formed their vicious habits: by such a plan as this, the kingdom would be saved the enormous expense of its police and prisons, the colony would be supplied with virtuous and well trained labourers, and the individual, instead of a sullen and revengeful convict, would go out a cheerful, a loyal, and happy settler. We should have volunteers in abundance for our fleets and armies, we should have no need of impressment, and very little for punishment.

Such is the object of the "CHILDREN'S FRIEND SOCIETY," and as far as we have gone it has been found to answer ; still it is imperfect,—inasmuch as the children are neither taken in so young as it is desirable, nor are they kept so long under training as is deemed indispensable for insuring their future good conduct.

Mr. James Simpson, of Edinburgh, in his most admirable work on Popular Education, (p. 36,) speaking of seminaries for the education of the poor, says, "there are none in which there is provision for any kind of education which is to make the working man wiser and happier." If this excellent writer and highly talented man would take the trouble to inspect our schools, he would, I trust, find an exception. That our Institution is not sufficiently known, I am willing to believe, but it is now beginning to force its way into public notice, and I live in the hope that when once its honest and economical principle of action is fairly understood, that it will stand on its own merits ; that it will spread its roots and branches widely through the land, so that when a magistrate shall have a child convicted before him for a petty theft

or misdemeanour, he may have the power to commit it to one of our Asylums, where its reformation will be immediately set about in good earnest, and no doubt thoroughly completed, if the terms of its rustication be not less than two years. How much better would this be than sending it to certain ruin, by committing for trial to the common prisons, and among the most accomplished thieves in the land! Our Boys' Asylum has been long in full and prosperous action, and has surmounted many difficulties. If there are those who never heard of an agricultural school, where religion, morals and gardening are combined, it is no fault of mine: many thousands of letters have been distributed, giving the most ample accounts of the plans and the wants of the school, as well as its rapid success. At the time when our funds were so low that six of the Committee agreed to borrow two hundred pounds, I was strongly advised to give it up, but I never would consent to abandon the poor children. I went myself to our bankers, Messrs. Williams, Deacon, Labouchere, and Co. and they generously and instantly lent us the money, and from that day to this we have been constantly

improving in our funds, and adding to the number of our scholars and subscribers. It is four years since the Society relinquished the school at West Ham, and hired the premises which we now occupy at Hackney-Wick; where we have good accommodation for two hundred boys, a capital house for the master, with ten acres of land: the whole of this is cultivated and kept in order by the pupils, of whom we have had one hundred and fifty at one time. The first year of our occupation, the produce of the land was not much above thirty pounds, the second year this sum was more than doubled. The produce of this land in former years was, probably, not a twentieth part of this, as to *human subsistence*; it is very poor land, and the improving fertility has arisen from the well-managed appropriation of that *redundant* labour and economy of manure which had hitherto been either unemployed; or used in the destruction of property and putrefaction of the air in their wretched abodes. Whatever, then, the pecuniary advantage may appear, it is nothing when compared to the moral effect produced on the minds and habits of the children, who coming, as it were, wild from

the hot-beds of vice and lawless indulgence, are rapidly brought into the habits of order, regularity, and obedience, and this without the agency of any other means than kindness and firmness. We have no whips or rods, although we have had many very unruly spirits to deal with. Each boy freely gives his own personal labour and individual exertion to the well-being of the general hive. Our object, as far as human prudence can guide us, is in harmony with the Holy Scriptures, and the divine command "Suffer little children to come unto me."

The Girls' School at Chiswick, called, by the express permission of their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent and her illustrious daughter, "THE VICTORIA ASYLUM," is the female branch of the Children's Friend Society, conducted exactly on the same principle as that for the boys, and is, if possible, still more deserving of public notice and support, inasmuch as the sex is more defenceless, and more dependant on our exertions. The Colony to which the little girls are sent, as soon as they are qualified to do the work required of them, has been chiefly the Cape of Good Hope, where female servants are

much wanted, and where the demand for males still exceeds our power to supply.

The accounts which we have received of the children, after their arrival, and when they had been provided with good masters and mistresses, are most satisfactory, as upwards of one hundred and thirty of their letters will prove. It behoves the Committee at home to receive them as early as possible into the Asylums, first to prevent the contamination of vice with which they are threatened in the workhouse or prison; and secondly, to send them at an early age to the colony intended for their residence, in order that they may the better adapt themselves to their new country, while they cherish an affectionate and filial remembrance of the kindness shewn to them in their parent state.

All our correspondents abroad concur in asking for the children between the ages of ten and twelve, and we the more readily agree with them, inasmuch as we have invariably found that under the age of twelve or thirteen they are tractable and easily taught, while above that age they have too frequently caused trouble, expense, and embarrassment;

this experience confirms the truth of the motto with which I have headed this little book. So far all is very well for a demonstration; it has been satisfactorily proved, that a child may be trained to virtue and happiness for one tenth part of the expense which it usually takes to bring it up to destruction.

The teaching of a poor child to read and write is nothing compared to what we aspire to; knowledge, however great, is not good unless it is placed in good hands; I have heard of little boys going into the woods in Westphalia and making gunpowder, and the knowledge acquired in many of our schools may be applied to no better purpose,—but whose fault is it? Surely of those only who, having the power to direct, give a wrong impulse, leave the momentum inert, or allow it to take a false direction; the ship is either run on shore by unskilful officers, or is drawn by the currents among rocks and shoals, because no one was found qualified to take the helm.

The “CHILDREN’S FRIEND SOCIETY,” having thus, in the course of seven years, with the blessing of Divine Providence, rescued upwards of 1300 children from ruin, and ren-

dered that labour profitable to the State* which before was used to its double injury, both by the loss or destruction of property, as well as by the force employed for its protection,—we confidently appeal to the good sense and humanity of the nation for support. We ask for a comparison between the relative merits of our school, and the workhouses, the prisons, the penitentiaries, the hulks, the mad-houses, and the penal colonies; for all these owe their being to the neglect of the education of the youth of this mighty empire. Our plans have long since discarded the names of *experiments* or “*theories*,” or “*Utopian visions*,” or “*flowery speculations*;” they amount to real solid demonstrations, and if we desire to have a better class of men in our armies and our fleets, if we wish for better domestic servants of both sexes, let us train them to be sober, honest, virtuous, religious, and industrious, to fear God and to fear disgrace, but nothing else.

When I can see 15,300 boys (that is on an

* The most valuable and highly-prized gift I ever received in my life was about 50 fine ears of wheat, the produce of the labour of our boys at Hackney-wick, and which they kindly sent to me as a sample.

average one for every parish in the kingdom) in training for the navy and merchant service on these principles—when I can see every large town with its agricultural school for boys, every sea-port with its training ship for sailors, female asylums for the girls set up in the same proportion, and when I can see similar establishments in Ireland, then, indeed, I shall be contented, but not till then; and all this may be done for less by far than the expense of the workhouse, to say nothing of that of the prisons and police, and convict hulks.

And shall we stop short in our work before it be complete? Let the reader, however exalted he may be in life, condescend to read the following pages, addressed more particularly to the humblest children of the empire. He will see that our object is only begun,—its operation is merely in its infancy. I have passed half a century in my profession. I have witnessed the execution of my fellow-creatures with a sigh, and a vow to Heaven, that if ever I had the power, I would endeavour to apply a remedy to the evils produced on man by his own ignorance and depravity. If we desire that hanging, and flogging, and

crime, and drunkenness, and impressment should cease, let us train up our soldiers and sailors in the habits of religion, temperance, self-denial, and a love of their country.

I have before quoted Mr. James Simpson, of Edinburgh, and I cannot help flattering myself that there is a very singular coincidence in some of our thoughts and writings, without either being previously conscious of the other's existence. In page 32, I find the following passage:—"But what is the nature of the education of the humbler classes which is extending in England, and has been so long established in Scotland? Is it of a kind to impart useful practical knowledge for resource in life? does it communicate to the pupil any light on the important subject of his own nature and place in creation, on the condition of his physical welfare, and his intellectual and moral happiness? does it, above all, make an attempt to regulate his passions, and to train and exercise his moral feelings, to prevent his prejudice, suspicions, envyings, self-conceit, vanity, impracticability, destructiveness, cruelty, sensuality? Alas! no;—it teaches him to read, write, and cypher, and to pick up all the rest as he may."

There is too much truth in the above, its justice must be acknowledged by every impartial person. I shall be told by the unthinking and unreasoning class, that, as it was always so, it ought to continue; their fathers did the same, and why should not they. I saw a young gentleman, the son of a man of large fortune, cleaning knives on the stairs at Winchester College; "why, William," said I, "how came you so employed?" "I am cleaning knives and forks for my master's breakfast table," replied the boy; "and pray," said I, "William, what are you to get by this drudgery?" "Oh, get all that which my *master* leaves, to be sure:" this master was one of the elder boys. I mentioned this incident in such a way that I knew it must reach the ears of his parents, but I was told, "it was always so; fagging was a good thing, it taught a boy to rough it." So it may, it also teaches him to be first a mean fawning slave, and then a tyrant to ride roughshod over others.

It seems indeed but too obvious that the real secret of education has hitherto been little understood, and still less practised. Oberlin and Fellenberg, and the amiable Count Von-

der Recke, of Dusselthal Abbey, have led the way; and some few attempts have been made to follow them. Little, however, has yet been done in this country, and still less in Ireland, where it is much wanted. Our National Schools are in this respect alarmingly defective; the teachers look at each other with marks of self-gratulation when a poor girl can repeat a verse of the Sermon on the Mount; or tell you how many barley corns will reach from London to York; follow her home to her parents and you shall hear how little she respects their authority, or cares for their censure; ask her the meaning of the fifth commandment, she will repeat it by rote, but her general conduct will be a sad commentary upon that and all the others.

How much may be done by gently training a child to labour and knowledge, those only know who have made the experiment, and devoted their minds to the subject. Six weeks have made the most surprising change in the worst disposed boys; and the comparison between those who have been only for that period under our tuition, and those who have been in the streets or workhouses, is really wonderful. We use no cat-o'-nine-

tails, or sticks—a blow is never struck—angry words scarcely ever exchanged—very rarely that even solitary confinement for three hours is had recourse to—a lie is seldom known, there being no temptation or inducement to depart from the truth. Instances, no doubt, will occur, where for a time the efforts of our masters seem to be thrown away; a child occasionally deserts, but rarely returns to his former habits. We had a remarkable instance of this at Hackney-wick. Three boys deserted in the school uniform; they were captured by the police, and brought before the magistrate, who, on hearing the case from me, was very angry with the boys, two of them having been received from the House of Correction but a few days before, and he sentenced them to be sent to that prison again for fourteen days, and to be well whipt: the little fellows cried bitterly, and implored mercy, which, on my interceding for them, the worthy magistrate readily granted. They went back overjoyed to the school, and became the pride of it afterwards; had they gone to the House of Correction again, it is probable they would have become confirmed felons. It is therefore our object and prin-

cial plan to abolish corporal punishment, not by law, but by disuse; and to substitute shame—for where this is wanting, torture is useless.

If a boy was initiated into the navy under such a feeling; if he were kindly trained and instructed, and taught to look up to his captain and officers as friends and advisers, and his shipmates as brothers and companions; if he knew, that on his return home to England, a hearty welcome awaited him on board a training ship, where he might safely deposit his chest and bedding, while he went to visit his parents, he would naturally acquire a love of his country, which no time would obliterate; and in the hour of danger, he would fly to her defence, with as much ardour as a mother would defend the infant in her arms. Our practical experience is confirmed by the testimony of many naval officers of distinction, who assert, that those ships were invariably in the worst order, where the most punishments were inflicted. Mutiny, piracy, desertion, and murder, have sometimes been the results. In following up this subject, I addressed a letter to Sir James Graham.

TO THE RIGHT HON.

SIR JAMES G. GRAHAM, BART.

FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY,

§c. §c. §c.

SIR,

As you have kindly allowed me to address you publicly, I shall take the utmost care to avoid occupying more of your time than the importance of the subject demands.

These pages will be found to contain a mere outline or synopsis of our duties towards the youth of this country generally,—the application of them to the navy rests with yourself. I, as a naval officer, have long seen and felt the want of some effectual mode of training and educating young people, both for the army and navy, but most in the latter. I am not so wild an innovator, as to suppose that we can ever dispense with the use of the cat-o'-nine-tails, or resign the power of impressment, nor would any good officer accept of command under such limitations. I am rejoiced to learn, from high authority, that our ships of war at present are well manned, the same was however the case during the

preceding intervals of peace, after all our former wars ; yet, on the breaking out of any disturbance, we have always had recourse to press warrants, and the number and the quality of the men sent into the service by these means, have never been commensurate to the enormous expense to the country, and the loss of popularity to the government and the naval service.

The plan which I have the honor to submit to you, may, if properly followed up, obviate the necessity of having recourse to such violent, and generally disgusting measures in future. The recruiting of the navy may be managed with the same facility as that of the Royal Marine ; the youth of the country may be kept in constant readiness for the naval or merchant service ; and when we consider the vast importance of the object, both as to economy, humanity, and national prosperity, the sum of £300,000, or even of half a million annually is a trifle ; even the Slave Abolition Bill sinks into insignificance when compared to this ; but if we reflect on the expenses of the Rendezvous System, the destruction of human life, the loss of property, of boats, of desertion, and a thousand other

contingencies connected with the plans hitherto adopted of raising seamen for the navy, we cannot but conclude, that almost any thing is better than depending on such means, in any future emergency.

The appointment of naval captains to be field-officers of marines, is discontinued ; be it so. It always was a source of jealousy and uneasiness between the two services, and for that reason only should be put an end to. How far it might be consistent with the views of the Government to appoint naval officers of equal rank, to be Commodores superintending the naval militia, at each of our great sea ports, is a question which I shall not presume to discuss ; but I strongly and earnestly recommed, that the same care which has ever, since the reign of Queen Anne, been taken of the marines, should now be applied to the seamen ; indeed, the institution of the marine corps was originally, according to Burchett, intended as a nursery for seamen. [The plan now proposed would answer for both.]*

We at present have no other nursery for seamen than the very worst that can be pro-

* The words between brackets were not in the original Letter.

cured, namely our ships of war and merchantmen: where young sailors are taught to drink spirits, and to be governed with violence and terror, instead of mildness and firm decision; no pains being taken to improve their moral character. The youth is more frequently taught to despise such distinction from his fellows.

When a ship of war or merchantman arrives from a foreign station, and is either paid off or unloaded, the crew are all turned adrift, with their money and clothes; the whole of their earnings is squandered in a few days, their wearing apparel gone, and they are beggars on the town and highways.

This might be easily avoided, by a ship (or two or more if necessary) being provided at each port, for the reception of such men, where their chest and bedding might be taken care of; themselves allowed (with a portion of their money) to go and see their friends; and on their return to pay sixpence a day for their food and accommodation on board, until they were again required to go to sea.

In the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Committee of the House of Commons, on Manufactures, Commerce, and Shipping, 10th

July, 1833, No. 6838, and down to 6846, there are some very instructive observations made by Mr. John Astle, shewing the inferiority of our seamen, as compared with Prussians,—not in point of prowess, but in orderly conduct. The laws in force in Prussia tending to secure discipline, are more effectual than ours, while the wages of our men are more than double theirs. In the American service, the comparison is as much against us: their ships are now going to sea without spirituous liquors, and the use of it has been officially discountenanced in their army. While in our ships so many gallons of rum are given for the run home from the West Indies or Quebec; and in our ships of war the serving of grog always produces drunkenness, and this is as often followed by corporal punishment, desertion, and loss of life. The fate of the *St. George* in 1759, the *Edgar* in 1772, the *Ajax* in 1806, and the *Kent East Indiaman*, with many other more recent instances, should warn us of the consequences of taking that doubly fatal combustible, ardent spirits, to sea in our ships.

The following is the Plan which I respectfully beg leave to submit to your consideration:—

PROPOSAL

FOR RAISING YOUNG MEN FOR THE ROYAL
NAVY OR MERCHANT SERVICE, WITH A
VIEW TO AVOID THE NECESSITY OF IMPRESS-
MENT OR PUNISHMENT.

I. Every boy proposed for the sea service shall be examined by a medical board: the powers of his body and mind carefully scrutinized: his moral habits strictly investigated.

II. He shall have attained the age of thirteen years: he shall voluntarily enter for the King's service; his name shall be enrolled in the books of Greenwich Hospital; and the Government shall charge itself with his future education, training and support, provided he does not forfeit such protection by his own misconduct.

III. He shall serve two years in a training ship: he shall not be punished with any corporal infliction, unless in extreme cases; but he shall, for his faults, undergo certain terms of solitary confinement, be debarred from amusement, deprived of animal food;

or finally, if in time of peace, dismissed from the service.

IV. Every boy shall be supplied, on his coming on board, with two hammocks, a set of clues, one lashing, with two blankets, and mattress and pillow ; a bag, three shirts, two suits of clothes, a cap, Bible and prayer-book, a knife and fork, and a tin pot.

Every article to be marked with the boy's number on the books ; and this number to be attached to him during his continuance in the sea service. The above articles shall be gratuitously supplied, and called **THE ENDOWMENT**. The early and honest acquisition of property is of great consequence.

V. The mode of training and education to be pursued is submitted in the following outline, subject to such alterations and improvements as the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty may direct.

THE MODE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

The Bible. Prayer, morning and evening ; never to exceed ten minutes each time. Divine service twice on Sundays ; neither service to exceed one hour.

Reading, writing, arithmetic, common observation of the sun and moon, calculation of tides : no boy to be compelled to learn, but rather stimulated and led to it.

Lectures on geography, history, travels, voyages,—shipwrecks, with the nature and position of rocks, shoals, tides, currents, &c. —and resources in all cases of danger.

An outline of anatomy, shewing the construction of the human frame, the position of the large arteries, and how to stop an hemorrhage in case of a wound or accident.

Lectures on ship-building : attention to be directed to models of the most approved ships, with the art of repairing and building vessels, they will be taught that cases may arise where such knowledge may be essentially necessary.

Exercise of great guns and small arms, single stick or broad sword : rigging and unrigging a ship : loosing, reefing, and furling of sails : making rope : blacksmith's, carpenter's, and sailmaker's work, mending clothes, &c.

No boy ever to be allowed to remain idle. He must either work, read, or write ; quarrelling and fighting to be strictly prohibited :

mutual kindness and constant good-humour to be inculcated, and time allowed for recreation.

The expense of a frigate of the larger class, to make the demonstration for one year, with three hundred boys on board, would be as follows :—

1 Captain, half-pay, £225—add, to make	
£400 - - - - -	£175
3 Lieutenants, half-pay each £90—add £30	
to each, to make £120 - - -	90
1 Master, half-pay £60—add - - -	40
1 Surgeon's Assistant - - - - -	80
1 Chaplain, as Schoolmaster - - -	100
Cost of Victualling, Clothing, &c. 300 Boys,	
at £15 each - - - - -	4500
Reserve Fund, to lay by, at the rate of £3	
each boy - - - - -	900
Contingencies, Stationery, &c. - - -	115
	<u>£8000</u>

At this rate the cost of maintaining, training, and educating 15,000 boys, to supply the King's and the Merchants' service with good seamen, would amount to £300,000, including the reserve fund ; which, on a man attaining the age of 39 years, and having,

from the period of entering the service, regularly contributed thereto, at the rate of £3. per annum, will amount to between £70 and £80; from which if we deduct the expense of education and training, (for 2 years, at £15 per annum, £30) there will remain £40 or £50 for him to fit his house with, if he thinks proper to retire with his pension, to which, according to the rules of the service, he is entitled. Should he, however, choose to remain in the navy, he will receive the interest of all his savings, at four per cent., his pension for twenty-four years' servitude, with the addition of his pay.

The essential difference between the King's and the Merchants' service must be here pointed out to the young sailor. In the former, after a servitude of 14 or 21 years, he will be entitled to a larger pension; in the latter, to a smaller one; nor can he be advanced above the rating of an able seaman, while a regularly bred King's man is found qualified for a petty officer. No seaman can be entitled to a petty officer's rating, until he has served six consecutive years in the navy with a good character; and he must

enter the service under the express stipulation that he is never to drink grog or spirituous liquors.

Drunkards will be dismissed the service, by the sentence of a court-martial, with forfeiture of all claim on Greenwich Hospital.

Should the master of a merchant vessel get drunk, he will forfeit the indenture of his apprentice, who may be removed from his ship by any naval captain on full pay, on proof of the alleged fact.

A seaman having served his full time in the merchant service, viz. from fifteen to thirty-nine years of age, may claim the out-pension of Greenwich Hospital, provided he has conducted himself well, and has paid up his annual contribution to the fund.

We admit that it will cost £30 to train a boy for a sailor, previous to his entering on his active career of life; but this is money well and cheaply expended. 1st. In the preservation of life and property. 2nd. In the saving of the expense of raising seamen either by impress or otherwise. 3rd. By taking off the odium from the King's service. 4th. By doing away with drunkenness and corporal

punishment. 5th. By decrease of parochial rates. 6th. By decrease of crime and police expense.

All masters of merchantmen must be compelled to fill up their complement of boys agreeably to Act of Parliament: the ships should be mustered by a naval officer; and if they have been found to sail without their complement, they should be fined according to the nature and degree of the offence.

When a youth quits the training ship, and enters the King's or Merchants' service, he shall be supplied with a certificate printed on parchment, to the effect, and in the form and manner hereafter stated, being an abstract from the ship books. (See Appendix A.)

All service in the Navy to be rewarded after the rate of £1 per annum pension above six years; nothing under, except from loss of limb, or other personal injury.

At the age of fifteen a boy must choose his profession, either the King's or the mercantile service: a good and respectable master is to be selected for him if he goes into the merchants' service. Every good or bad act or desertion being noted in the "Behaviour Book," will be reported by the master, on his

return into port, to the commanding officer of the ship from whence he received him, or to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. Good conduct may be rewarded by so many days gained; and bad conduct punished by so many being lost; the result to be added to, or subtracted from, his time of servitude: the same mode of reward and punishment to be applied to the King's ships.

A CASE.—A. C. has served from the age of fifteen to thirty-nine in the merchants' service, has paid up all his subscriptions, his certificates are good. What is his reward? £9. 2s. 6d. out-pension, with liberty to enter the King's service afloat, still retaining his pension, or Greenwich Hospital, if wounded, but no pension.

Another:—A. B. has served twenty-four years in like manner in the Royal Navy: what is to be his reward?—a pension of £14 a-year, and, with it, liberty to continue his service; or he may enter Greenwich Hospital, with a pension of £14 a-year for life; or, again, he may retire with an out-pension of £24 a-year for life. All cases of merit to be rewarded according to the judgment of the Lords of the Admiralty.

And farther, it must be especially and clearly understood, that a man's name standing on the books of Greenwich Hospital, whether in the King's or merchants' service, provided he pays up his subscription, and performs his duty, shall entitle him to all the benefits of that institution, in case of wound or accident, the same as if he had received his hurt in the King's service.

Provided also, that on the breaking out of any war or foreign disturbance, he shall, upon the King's proclamation, appear before the nearest officer of the royal navy, within days after such proclamation. If he be out of the kingdom, and employed in any merchant vessel, he shall obtain leave from the nearest King's officer to perform his voyage: such voyage being completed, he is to surrender himself, on pain of the forfeiture of all his previous savings.

Granting pensions to seamen and soldiers is no novelty; it is consistent with strict justice, where men have faithfully done their duty, to provide for them in old age: my plan would only tend to increase that precision, and improve the number and character of our seamen.

MODE OF PAYING FOR THESE YOUTHS UNTIL
THEY ATTAIN THE AGE OF FIFTEEN YEARS,
WHEN THEY GO TO THEIR WORK.

It costs almost every parish about £10 a-year to maintain their orphan or deserted boys in the workhouse : we have in St. Mary-le-bone at this moment about 200, many of whom are perfectly fit and very desirous of going to sea ; and they should now be apprenticed *in the King's service*, the parish paying Twenty Pounds for each, and to be clear of any future demand from that boy or his children, should he live to have any,—in short, he renounces his settlement, and becomes a child of the Government. The remaining £20 is to be supplied,

1st. Out of the tax on gin *shops*, (not gin) and on all distilleries or dealers in spirituous liquors.

2d. On all absentees, payable on passports, whether going out or coming into the kingdom.

Or in preference to either of these modes of raising the Fund, the Government might levy a certain sum on each of the 15,300 parishes,

according to their extent and opulence; always selecting boys from each parish, according to its quota: but if the boy be at all objectionable, he must be sent back at the parish expense. I have now before me a list of thirty-two very fine boys, in the Workhouse St. Mary-le-bone, above the age of thirteen, who at the rate only of £9 a year, reckoning from nine years of age, have cost the parish nearly £39 each, without any return; that is to say, the sum of £1,242 has been worse than thrown away: because, if the boys have acquired no good, and I can prove they have not, then they must have acquired evil;—for I hold learning without a habit of labour, and good principles, to be an instrument of destruction. And considering that these thirty-two boys will, in all probability, become a burden on the industrious, in some shape or other, if not on the poor's rates,—then I contend that the advantage to the parish and to the country, in every point of view, by thus training these children, on board a ship, would be incalculable.

Thirty-three thousand men voted by Parliament, and 15,000 boys in training, make 48,000. At the breaking out of a war, you need not issue

press-warrants ; your marines, volunteers, and landsmen, would quickly fill up your ships, to the number of 120,000 men.

Something of course must be allowed for wear and tear : but the captain and officers in the Ordinary, as at present employed, have their boats, and their fuel, and a very small increase in the number of officers and boats, would answer my purpose, and keep alive a spirit of emulation in the service.

WIDOWS' FUND.

EVERY YOUNG PERSON ENTERING THE KING'S SERVICE, shall deposit per cent. from all his wages, gains, prize money, or other emoluments or profits, towards a Fund for the Maintenance of Widows. Should he die unmarried, this sum, whatever may be its amount, will fall to the Government Fund for Widows : but if he leave a widow, or mother, or sisters, or children, they shall receive the interest, or principal, or both, as the Lords of the Admiralty may judge fit. We must not forget, that by deducting £1. 5s. per annum, or £30 from the whole of his savings at the end of the 24 years, the seaman has paid

the expense of his education and training, while, by the same means, his moral and physical powers have been so much improved, that he is worth twice as much either to the King or to the merchant, as he would have been untrained and untaught; and 400 such men would do the work more effectually than 600 of the present school, at one-third less cost.

I have the honour to be,
With grateful respect,

SIR,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

EDW. P. BRENTON,

Captain in His Majesty's Navy.

18, York Street, Gloucester Place,

April 7th, 1834.

APPENDIX A.

No.	Age	Date of Entry		Name.	Parish.	Days.		Difference		How disposed of.	Sig. of Capt. or Master, & Apprentice.	Date of Discharge.
		Month	Year			Gain.	Lost.	Gain.	Lost.			
1	13	Apr. 13	1834	John Jones.	Whitechapel. } Father, a Sailor, } Father, a Marine	70	13	57		Discharged into H.M.S. <i>Rattlesnake</i> Discharged with highest mark of approbation, having gained one whole year.		
2	13	June 1	1834	Jacob Stevens.		365	0	365				
3	13	July.	1834	Thomas Wild	Orphan.	200	7	193		Apprentice.—Brig <i>Maria</i> , of London, Cap. Stevens, bound to Jamaica.		

A Certificate of this description should be given to every boy on his removal from the training ship. It should be on parchment, in a tin case, and confided to the custody of the captain or master with whom he sails. Captains of Merchantmen should make a return of good or bad, on a paper certificate, in the same form. The number of days gained or lost, is of itself a certificate of good or bad conduct: jumping overboard to save a man's life, should be marked with a certain number of days according to circumstances, guarding against collusion. Drunkenness: 1st offence, loss of fifteen days; 2nd ditto, 30 days; 3rd ditto, 60 days; doubling every time until the columns were full with 865 days; when disgrace and discharge must ensue, with loss of all savings, and to work at cleansing the harbours, but never to be chargeable to parish.

APPENDIX B.

St. Mary-le-bone, 11th February, 1834.

At a Meeting of the Sub-Committee of Directors and Guardians.—*Present*, Mr. Wm. Kensett, in the Chair; Shearm. Chesterman, Esq.; Mr. Wm. Salter; Captain Brenton.

Your Committee went through the Boys' School, and enquired into the mode of treatment, instruction, and general management; and they are of opinion that Mr. Robinson, the Master, performs his duty; that the boys appear to have generally a competent knowledge of reading, writing, and arithmetic; but they are not, and cannot be, in such limits, trained to healthy labour and profitable occupation.

That your Committee next visited the workshops and manufactory, and found the boys discontented and labour unprofitable; that the weavers, shoemakers, and tailors, produced no work of any value; and in the latter department, the foreman informed your Committee, that a master in taking an apprentice, preferred one who knew nothing to one who had received instruction.

That whatever profit might accrue in the rope-yard, was more than overbalanced by the immoral habits of the boys, whose intercourse with the adult paupers of both sexes, quickly eradicated every good impression; and that well-disposed boys frequently relapsed or were corrupted by the ridicule and bad example of their companions, and finally, your Committee observed with regret, that the boys slept two in a bed, a practice which they must ever condemn.

(Signed)

EDW. P. BRENTON, R. MILLS,
SHEARMAN CHESTERMAN, W. KENSETT.

APPENDIX C.

St. Mary-le-bone, 17th February, 1834.

At a Meeting of the Sub Committee of Directors and Guardians.—*Present*, Captain Brenton, in the Chair; Rev. G. A. Thursby; Shearman Chesterman, Esq.; Mr. Theo. Redwood; Mr. Richard Mills; Mr. William Kensett.

Your Committee proceeded to Hackney-Wick, to view the "Brenton Asylum," and

to examine the boys placed in that institution : they have to report, that they found them all (fifty-two in number) healthy, contented, and engaged in cheerful and useful pursuits, principally spade labour, tending to establish habits of industry, good principles, and independence of character.

That the boys sent from this house were more particularly examined by your Committee, and they unanimously and readily expressed their pleasure and contentment with the treatment they received, and looked forward with satisfaction to the period when they should be removed (to the colonies) under the auspices and guidance of the "Society for the Suppression of Juvenile Vagrancy."*

Your Committee witnessed with much satisfaction the advancement of education with the moral virtues among the children, strikingly exemplified in their examination ; their love of truth—their devoted obedience to their preceptors and masters—their repentance of past errors and an evident determination to amend. The marked improvement of character appears to have been brought about by

* Now the Children's Friend Society for Suppression of Juvenile Vagrancy.

kindness and strict attention,—the most important feature of the system.

After having given the subject their best consideration, your Committee think it their duty to recommend to the Board of Directors and Guardians, to make immediate arrangements with the “Society for the Suppression of Juvenile Vagrancy,” to receive all the orphan boys of this house above the age of eight years, the institution engaging to keep them for the sum of four shillings per week each, during the period of their probation, and that previously to their being sent to the colonies they shall be inspected by the Board of Guardians, who, on being satisfied, will make farther arrangements to defray the expenses of their voyage and outfit to the Cape of Good Hope or Swan River, at the rate of ten pounds, and two suits of clothes for each boy.

(Signed)

EDW. P. BRENTON, R. MILLS,
SHEARMAN CHESTERMAN, W. KENSSETT,
G. A. THURSBY.

The reader will not fail to observe how soon the Guardians of St. Mary-le-bone rescinded this resolution, and recalled the boys; but the

lads told them to their faces, that they would sooner starve in the streets than return into the workhouse. The parish of St. James, Westminster, and others, have adopted our plan.

The following letters it is thought will clearly illustrate the good effects already produced by the efforts of the Society.

Extract from the South African Commercial Advertiser, of the 25th July, 1834.

We feel much pleasure at being able to inform our fellow colonists that the scheme for supplying them with young apprentices as agricultural labourers, domestic servants, &c., of which we have so often spoken, is now fully matured, and the inhabitants of this colony have it now in their power to obtain any number of such apprentices of both sexes, by applying to the "Committee for Apprenticing Juvenile Emigrants in Cape Town."

The Society in England, from which this Committee receives these Juvenile Emigrants, having enlarged its plan, so as to embrace destitute children of every age, and formed establishments in which they can be educated

and trained in habits of industry, order, and virtue, has adopted the title of the "Children's Friend Society."

In these asylums a *mild* system of discipline has been adopted, from which, so far as it has been tried, the happiest effects have resulted. Youths who were found to be utterly immoveable by severity of demeanour and corporal punishment, have in many instances been shaken and completely subdued by kindness and sympathy.

When the first divisions of these emigrants were landed here last year, an opinion was entertained by some, originating in the former title of the Society—"For the Suppression of Juvenile *Vagrancy*"—that most, if not all, of them had been guilty of some crime or delinquency. And it is true that, of many of them, the Society in London could only say that they knew nothing, except that they were found in a state of destitution. Their future conduct was therefore a subject of deep anxiety with the Committee in Cape Town, and they pressed on the attention of the Society in London the superior advantages likely to be secured to the public, both at home and in the colonies, by receiving

destitute children into their asylums, if possible, before they had been forced by their unhappy circumstances into vicious courses, and to send none to the Cape beyond the age of fourteen years for boys, and twelve for girls, unless particularly applied for by individuals, and that a certificate of character should be transmitted with such as had been for any time under their protection. With these views the Society have signified their cordial concurrence, and the most satisfactory testimonials of character and behaviour have been received along with the last division which has just been distributed.

It is but justice to these children, however, to add, that though no fewer than 174 have been apprenticed during the last twelve months, *not a single case of theft, violence, or outrage, on the part of any one of them, has been brought under the cognizance of the Magistrate.* During the first two or three months a few cases of desertion occurred; but this was easily checked, as it seems to have arisen entirely from the novelty of their situation, and a want of sympathy with the strangers among whom they were thus suddenly placed, and, from all we have seen and

heard on the subject, we are able to say that their conduct has been not only blameless, but exemplary.

With a view to their further improvement, the Committee have engaged a teacher to give instruction to such of them as their masters can spare for that purpose, for one hour in the evenings of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week, from eight till nine o'clock. This school will be opened this evening.

As we consider this method of introducing labourers and domestic servants into the colony, the most likely to prove beneficial, in every aspect in which it can be viewed, that has yet been suggested, we offer no apology for the length to which our remarks upon it have run whenever we have had occasion to refer to it. To relieve the distress of those who are suffering for the faults or in consequence of the misfortunes of their parents—to snatch from the jaws of a cruel death by cold, want, and hunger, or from the gulf of moral perdition, more to be deplored than the cruelest of deaths, the orphan or deserted children of an over-crowded population—is an undertaking to which none can

be indifferent; and when, by thus affording exercise to the best feelings of the heart, we see the certain prospect of securing an incalculable sum of good to our fellow-colonists, we contemplate the whole scheme with unmingled satisfaction and delight.

To show how worthy of confidence those excellent persons are who have undertaken the care and management of the young emigrants in England, we subjoin a copy of their "Instructions for the Matron,"* who was intrusted with the charge of the last division of females during their voyage to the Cape. With a few alterations, according to circumstances, these "Instructions" might be advantageously adopted by the families into which the children may be apprenticed.

The Committee have also much gratification in laying before their friends and the public the following copies of letters which have been received from some of the emigrants sent abroad under the auspices of their Society, to which a few introductory remarks are prefixed:—Mrs. Riggs, a widow, with

* A copy of these "Instructions" may at any time be seen at the Society's Office, No. 9, Throgmorton-street.

five children, received six shillings a week as relief from the parish of Mary-le-bone; she occasionally earned something in addition to this, by going out to nurse; but her family being thus left without her superintendence, the eldest daughter, (about seventeen,) with three younger ones, could not at such times keep under proper control a brother of twelve years of age. The boy got into some mischief, which induced his mother to make an application for his being placed under the care of the *Children's Friend Society*. He was sent to Hackney Wick, and there improved rapidly. Mrs. Riggs's excellent character induced the Ladies' Committee to confide to her care a party of girls, who sailed for Cape Town in April last; and the parish of Mary-le-bone having advanced a sum which enabled her to procure nominations for the rest of her children, all went out together. The following letter from Mrs. Riggs to a friend in London, will prove how successful this arrangement has been in brightening the prospects of a whole family:—

July 14, 1834.

DEAR FRIEND:—I am now taking the first opportunity of sending you these few lines,

which I hope will find Mr. H.'s family quite well, as it leaves us all at present, and safe arrived at the Cape. We have had a very quick passage, we were less than three months by a week. All the girls have got good places, and likewise myself: the gentlemen received us very kindly, and I am thought very much of, my character being so respectable. Mr. and Mrs. Asken treat me as one of their own family, not as a servant, I am as happy as the days are long, it makes me think my young days are coming again. I can see my children two or three times a week, they all seem to be very happy, and that makes me happy. Mr. and Mrs. A. are quite a young couple, with their first child only two months old; I have my meals with them, and they share every thing they have with me. I may thank God that I have been so lucky to get into such a family, my wages are 1*l.* 10*s.* a month; house rent runs very high here; beef and mutton is only twopence or threepence per pound; bread and butter is the same as it is in London; fish cheap, cabbages and potatoes dear, and clothing dear. Give my respects to all we know, and tell them what a change I have made for the better. I like the

Cape very much, 'tis so fine a winter, it is like the early part of spring in London; they say the summer is very hot. I do not like their way of washing here in cold water, they slap the clothes, that you would think they must tear the gathers to pieces. My children join in love to you all. Dear friend, I conclude with my sincere respects to your wife and yourself.

Your sincere friend,

G. RIGGS.

A boy named Henry Powell was found in the Kent Road nearly starved; some charitable persons procured a nomination, and he was sent to the Hackney Wick School. It was ascertained that he and a sister some years older were left orphans, and that the latter had in vain struggled to support her little brother. Upon hearing that he was likely to go abroad, she went to see him at the asylum, and entreated that she might be allowed to go also; the strong affection manifested by each to the other, interested every one who saw them in their favour, and although Martha Powell was rather beyond the

usual age fixed by the Society, as she could procure a two years' good character from the mistress with whom she had lived in service, her request was granted; and after the settlement at Cape Town, she wrote the letter which follows to one of the Ladies' Committee:—

Cape Town, Sept. 17, 1834.

MADAM:— I have taken the liberty of writing these few lines to thank you for your kindness to me and my dear brother. We both have good places, and are very happy. I like the Cape well indeed, and my place also, for I think I have got the most comfortable place of all. We all got good places the same day that we came on shore; Mary Ann Stewart is gone to Graham's Town in the same family as Sarah Riggs; Ellen Mowbray is living near me, and is doing well; my brother is in a doctor's family, and is behaving well; we are very near each other, so that I am able to see after him. I hear that the emigrants who have been sent out have behaved pretty well; a few of the boys ran away from their masters at first, but they have all returned except three. There is an evening school three times a week for the

boys, and a penny library, to which many of them subscribe, and most who have come out go to some Sunday-school. My time will be out on the 28th of March, 1836, when, if I still like the Cape, I shall not return, as this air does agree with me. We had a very pleasant voyage, but a deal of sickness. The captain was very kind to us; there was only one passenger, which was a doctor; he and Mrs. Riggs paid every attention to us while we were ill; we all arrived at the Cape in good health.

I remain your obedient servant,
MARTHA POWELL.

Copy of a letter from the Rev. W. Edwards.

Kensington, Jan. 19, 1835.

DEAR SIR:—In compliance with your request, I have sent you a copy, verbatim, of the letter from the poor boy who is so deeply indebted to that excellent Society to which you belong. I have every reason to believe that this boy, if he had not been so kindly taken up and protected by the Society, might, before this, have been transported for some felonious act, instead of being so comfortably

settled abroad, as, from his letter he appears to be. By introducing him to the Society, you have been instrumental in rescuing a poor fellow-creature from almost inevitable ruin.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. EDWARDS.

Rev. Dr. Laing, &c.

Cape Town, Sept. 14, 1834.

MY DEAR MOTHER:—It is with the greatest pleasure I pen you these few lines, and hope they will find you quite well, as it leaves me at present. We arrived in Table Bay on the 19th of July, after a very pleasant voyage. This is a very pleasant place, and a very good business here. Please to give my best respects to Mr. and Mrs. Edwards, and also Mr. Hewett, and all inquiring friends. If you go to the school, please to tell all the boys that the Cape is a very fine place. I have no more to say at present.

I am, my dear Mother,

Your most affectionate Son,

JOHN BURKE.

William Edward Everson, a boy aged eleven, received into the Brenton Asylum in May, 1833. Owing to bad examples and evil associates, his conduct had been indifferent, but at school it was so satisfactory, that after remaining there until September following, he was sent with the party who embarked in the *Bolton* for Algoa Bay. The following letter was received by his parents, dated "Sweet Milk Fountain, Albany, Cape of Good Hope, May 4, 1834 :"—

HONOURED FATHER AND MOTHER :—I take the first opportunity of writing these few lines, hoping they will find you both in good health, as it leaves me at present, thank God for it. I arrived in this country in safety, and am engaged to a gentleman named Mr. Daniel, of Sweet Milk Fountain, to learn to be a farmer. - I have no reason but to respect my master and mistress ; they find me in plenty of clothes and food ; and at this place James Gosling stops, and is well. My brother stops near Cape Town, and I hear he is well ; I intend to write soon to him, and then you will hear more of us. My mistress teaches me to write, and we have prayers most nights. I like the place, and wish you were both here.

Bread and meat and most things are cheap, and any one that will work can live very well. i hope I shall be a good boy the remains of my life, so that I may be a credit in this world, and be ready for the next. I shall no more at this time, but remain

Your dutiful Son,

WILLIAM EDWARD EVERSON.

Extract of a letter from Ewan Christian, Esq., to the Chairman of the London Committee, dated at Cape Town, 18th March, 1836.

Craving your reference to my letters of the 11th Dec. and 9th instant, I have the pleasure to add, that the demand for our wards continues to increase, and you may by the first favourable opportunity extend the number to one hundred boys, taking it for granted that the several detachments recapitulated by me on the 11th December, amounting to eighty, have been dispatched at proper intervals.

From J—— T——, aged 15, to his mother, written at Cape Town, 1835.

I now take the opportunity of writing to you, as the Captain of the *Euphrates* is living

with us. I sometimes do not know what to do with myself, if I think of my conduct to you when I was in England, but I hope John does not take an example from his brother, but keeps the Fourth Commandment better than I have done.

From William Campbell, aged 16, to his father and mother, dated at Cape Town, 14th October, 1835.

I know it will be a great satisfaction to you and my dear mother to hear that I go on very happily in my business, and my master seeing my diligence, puts me forward and encourages me in such a manner that I have great delight in it, and hope I shall answer in time your good wishes and expectations and indulgence you have always shown me. There is such good order in the family, as well on my mistress part as my master's, that every servant as well as I knows his duty and does it with pleasure—so much evenness, sedateness, and regularity is observed in all they enjoin or expect, that it is impossible but it should be so. My master is a honest, worthy man; every one speaks well of him. My mistress is a cheerful, sweet-tempered woman, and

rather heals breaches than widens them, and the children, after such examples, behaves to us like one's own brothers and sisters. Who can but love such a family.

I wish, when it shall please God to put me in such a station, that I may carry myself just such as my master does, and if I should ever marry, have such a wife as my mistress, and then, by God's blessing, I shall be happy as they are, and as you, Sir, and my mother have always been. If any thing can make me happier than I am, or continue to add to my present felicity, it will be the continuance of your and my good mother's prayers.

My dear father and mother, I received your letter dated May, and am very glad to hear you are all very well. Give my best respects to my brothers and sisters, and all my friends, so no more at present from, &c.

Give my best respects to Mr. Locket for his kind advice.

From Elizabeth Foulger, aged 12, to her mother, dated at Somerset, Hottentots Holland, Cape of Good Hope, the 6th January, 1836.

I arrived at Cape Town after a passage of four months and eleven days. I was sea-sick

only a few days. Every person on board of the ship was very kind to me, and I enjoy ver good health in this country. The climate is much finer than that of England. I was apprenticed to the Rev. Mr. Edgar, minister of the Dutch church at this place. I am to serve as housemaid. I receive food, clothes, washing, and fourpence per week until I am 16 years of age. From that time until my apprenticeship expires, sixpence a week—the half of the money is to be put in the Savings' Bank ; the other half I can use. I am to be taught in reading and writing, and the principles of the Christian. My master and mistress are natives of Scotland. I have a very good place. I go to the Dutch church, but my master preaches in English, and piously. There are very few English in this part of the country, but there is one English boy,* an apprentice in this family. He has been two years and a half here: his mother lives in London. This is a beautiful part of the country, thirty miles from Cape Town. It is only a few miles from the Indian Ocean. We have a view of it from the house. Please give my

* This boy, "Robert Grimes," is also from the Society.

kind love to my sister Emma, brother George, and their children ; also to sisters Rachel, Alicia, Maria, Sarah, and Anne. Give my regards to the mistress of the school and the ladies who visit the school particularly : return my best thanks for their kindness to me. I should be happy if my sister Rachel and Alice would come out to this country. I have no doubt they would find places. They must apply to the Children's Friend Society in London. I hope, my dear mother, you are in the enjoyment of health. I pray God your afflictions may be sanctified to you. Do not regret my leaving you. I hope I shall do well.

*From G. Bottomley, aged 18, to his uncle, dated at
Graham's Town, 11th February, 1836.*

I received your letter dated 25th of March, I hope you are all well, for I never was better. I should like to know if my cousin has got plenty of work :—if he has not, tell him to try if he can get his passage paid, and bring his family out here ; if he is only steady, he is sure of plenty of work and good pay, for we have not half the number of carpenters that

we should have. It will cost him about thirty pounds to bring him to this town. Things are so cheap here, that he could live here and the whole of his family upon two shillings a day, and get five; it is a fine country, and only wants to be industrious: they can make money.

From William M' Manus, aged 13, to his mother, dated at Cape Town, the 5th of April, 1836.

As for me, I am quite comfortable and want for nothing:—any thing I want I only ask, and then can get it.

From Thomas Hemmings, aged 13, to his mother, dated at Wynberg, (Cape of Good Hope,) the 12th April, 1836.

I now take the opportunity of writing these few lines to you, hoping to find you in good health, as it leaves me at present; and mother, I was very well treated on board the ship; and when the captain comes back to England, he will come to you, and if he does not come himself, he says his wife's sister will come to you. Mr. Black, the baker, at the corner of Bennett-street, is where they live, and he will

come to you because I have been a good boy, for I was liked by all on board the ship. And mother, I have got a very good master, named Mr. Versfield, a farmer, and I am sure there cannot be a better master all over the coliney, if I do but be a good boy; I have plenty of good victuals and clothing. And mother, will you tell uncle to come and see me, as he promised me, and you too, that he would come to Mr. Versfield, Berefleet, near Wine Berg. And mother, we were three weeks at the Mother-bank, Portsmouth, and ten weeks a sailing; and we had fair wind all the way, and we had a very favourable voyage all the way. And mother, we were at the Governor's gardens a week, and then there were gentlemen came for us, and I went to W. T. Versfield, a farmer; and when I got there, I had plenty of grapes; and we were very busy a making of wine. So no more at present, from, &c.

Extract of letter from Mr. John Orrok, Agent to the Society, dated at Montreal, 8th of June, 1836.

Since my last, I have received ten applications for boys and five girls, in all, 130.

*Extract of letter from the same, dated 3rd July,
1836.*

I have to report, that while at Prescott, by accident I fell in with Oliver Phelps, Esq., of Saint Catherine's, near Niagara, and Mr. Thomas F. Parke, of Colchester. The former took James Mason and Robert Sweeney; and the latter took William Uniker, (boys per *Englishman*.) Both these gentlemen expressed themselves *highly satisfied* with their boys. Mr. Parke said that the *farmers* in his District (Western) would take 500 boys.

*From Thomas Isaacs, aged 14, to Mr. J. C. Forss,
late Agricultural Master, Juvenile Asylum, Hack-
ney, dated at Halifax, 1st October, 1835.*

It would be ingratitude of the deepest hue, were I to close this without sending you a few lines according to my promise when I left. I am as you will see by the first of these letters which is to the Committee, comfortably situated, and in a fair way to respectability. You were talking of coming over here, and I do wish from the very bottom of my heart and soul, you would, for you would be a great acquisition in a place like this. When I

think of Hackney Wick, I cannot help thinking that you and Mr. Wright were a great deal too kind to me. I hope I shall never forget your good advice. I must conclude in haste, wishing you every blessing here and hereafter.

From Joseph Foord, aged 14, to his Mother, dated at Montreal, 2nd November, 1835.

I take this opportunity in writing to you, in hopes that this letter will find you in good health, as it leaves me at present, thank God. Dear mother, of course, you will be glad to hear that I am very well to do here. I am apprenticed to a gentleman of the name of Mr. Brown, he keeps a printing office; and my master and mistress are very kind to me: they are a second father and mother to me. Dear mother, I like this country very well: I get very good health here as yet; and I get plenty to eat, and drink, and to wear.

From Mr. J. C. Forss, to the Secretary, dated at Fredericton, New Brunswick, 5th of June, 1836.

I have the pleasure of informing you of the safe arrival, at Fredericton, of the 34 boys

and one girl entrusted to my care by the Committee of the Children's Friend Society, together with the boy G. Wake, from New-market, who was recommended to my care by Captain Brenton.

With the exception of chilblains, we are all in good health and spirits, and intend to proceed to Stanley to-morrow.

We arrived at St. John's on Thursday, the 2nd day of June, and got into harbour on Friday at noon. We left St. John's by the steamer at six o'clock, A.M. Saturday, and got to Fredericton about eight in the evening, and were very hospitably received by J. Stephens, Esq. who this morning kindly introduced me to Sir Archibald Campbell, who wishes every success to the plans intended to be adopted.

The boys attracted great attention at St. John's, (*where labour at present is in demand*;) several gentlemen and respectable tradesmen expressed a wish to be supplied with boys through the Children's Friend Society, and it is the opinion of J. V. Thurgar, Esq. as well as myself, that a great number of boys might be apprenticed (*much to their advantage*) in this province. I am now anxiously awaiting

for the arrival of E. N. Kendall, Esq. to arrange about forming committees. The boys behaved themselves in an orderly manner on the passage, and I have no doubt but they will do well.

From Mr. John Stephens, of New Brunswick, to the Court of Directors of the New Brunswick Land Company, dated at Fredericton, 8th June, 1836.

I have the pleasing satisfaction to announce the safe arrival of Mr. Forss and 35 boys, per *Hinde*, from London; they got to Fredericton on Saturday evening, the 4th inst. And in accordance with instructions from the Committee, I forwarded them without delay to Stanley, on Monday morning, very early, which place I intend visiting myself to-morrow, to see that every thing is done that can be, to make them comfortable, happy, and advantageous to the Company's interests. They appeared in excellent health and spirits; and many applications have been made to obtain some of them as apprentices. Mr. Brewer and family have likewise been forwarded, to take charge of the tavern. The little girl is in my own house, where every care

will be taken of her until the arrival of Mrs. Kendall.

From Edwin Foot, aged 13, in New Brunswick, to his Mother, dated the 9th of August, 1836.

I take this opourtunity of wrighting thease few lines to you, hoping to find you in good helth, as it leaves me at presant. I arived at St. John's, New Brunswick, on the 4th day of June, and I proseded to Fredericton the same day in a steamer; we got there the same evening at nine o'clock; we resided there two nights and one day; we wheare all took to Stanly, 37 miles in the woods from Fredricton. Do is a very nice village, we should call it, but heare it is a town. I am living a half mile from the town with the Hon. G. F. Street; the are very kind to me since I have been with them; the are more like my parents then my master and mistress; the hav given me a great deal of clothes; the are English people, so that I might have a chance to see you before long; I like this country as well as England. I hope my brothers and sisters are in good helth, and all my friends and relatives. It was not sea-sick all the voyage

over ; we lived not very well coming over, but I live well now. I hope that you have a plenty of employ.

Copy of a Letter, addressed by George Greig, Esq. of Cape Town, to the Secretary, dated at No. 4, Mornington Crescent, Hampstead Road, 18th Aug. 1836.

In reply to your communication to me, from the Committee of the Children's Friend Society, respecting my knowledge of the condition and treatment of the children sent from time to time to the Cape of Good Hope by that useful Institution, I beg leave to send you the following answers to your queries :

1. I have resided in Cape Town for thirteen years, with a short interval in 1824-5. I became warmly interested in the objects of the Society, from the period of its existence becoming known in the Colony, and I paid more than ordinary attention to its operations, from my connexion with the "Commercial Advertiser" newspaper, of which I was then the chief proprietor ; and from the circumstance of the Editor of that journal, Mr. Fairbairn, being nominated a member of

the local Committee ; and my feeling, with him, a strong desire to promote the Society's views by means of our paper : to do this conscientiously and effectively, it became necessary to instruct myself fully in the nature, scope, and operations of the Parent Society.

2. I have reason to know that the Cape Town Committee evince the utmost anxiety and solicitude on behalf of the children committed to their care, not merely with respect to their first disposition on arrival, but as to their subsequent treatment by their masters. With a view to the moral and religious welfare of these children, the Committee have established a Sunday-school in Cape Town. They also take a lively interest in upholding a penny-a-week popular library, to which most of the juvenile emigrants are subscribers.

3. As far as my observation and knowledge extend, the children are well fed, clothed, and kindly treated.

4. With respect to the alleged want of shoes, and to some of the boys having to work barefooted, I may remark that I have seen one, or probably two instances of this fact. In one case the Committee's attention being

drawn to the treatment experienced by an apprentice, a deputation of the Committee went to the employer's farm, examined into facts, and insisted upon the terms of the indenture being strictly kept, one provision of which directs that the boys shall be provided with shoes. In a genial climate like that of the Cape, I consider it neither harsh nor improper for a boy to work (in-doors) without shoes. But farmers' apprentices at the Cape are usually provided with what is called "Veldt Schoonen," field-shoes, made of ox or sheep skins. The Committee would doubtless require every apprentice to have shoes provided to wear on the Sabbath, &c.

5. In case of ill treatment,* I know of no want of facility the children experience in obtaining redress. The natural proneness of youth under restraint to view discipline in the light of hardship, is, in the case of these boys, rather encouraged than checked by the vigilance of the local Committee; and thus

* A law has just come into operation at the Cape, appointing and authorizing the local Committee, or a majority of them, to act as legal guardians of the Children's Friend Society's Wards.

trifling inconveniences, which would in this country be viewed as incident to their condition in life, often acquire an air of importance, and receive a degree of attention, altogether disproportioned to their real character.

6. I am of opinion that, in the majority of cases, the treatment experienced by the juvenile emigrants at the Cape of Good Hope is fully equal to that of any given number of apprentices (not to limit the sense to *parish* apprentices) in London, or in any other part of the kingdom. Speaking generally, it may be safely said that the masters and mistresses of these youths consider them not alone as apprentices, but as it were orphans, or at least as the children of misfortune, who have a claim on their generosity and sympathy, as well as on their legal protection. Personal observation, sharpened by the interest I have ever taken in the success of this benevolent institution, enables me to state this with confidence. And when regard is had to the previous habits, the imperfect education, and the obstreperous dispositions of many of the children, I think a proof of the above remark may be found in the fact, that, with

all these disadvantages to encounter, there have been very few complaints substantiated against the masters, and *none* of a gross or serious description.

I trust, Sir, that these answers will prove satisfactory to the Committee of the Children's Friend Society. Should they desire any point to be more elaborated, or any further information which I am able to furnish, I shall feel it a pleasing duty to address them again.

Before I conclude, I beg permission to say one word of encouragement to the Society.

Their labours rank among the most exalted branches of human benevolence. By the generous devotion of their time, and a portion of those pecuniary means with which Providence has blessed them, the Committee of this Institution are conferring advantages altogether inestimable upon many of their poor destitute fellow creatures, by removing them from an atmosphere surcharged with every moral evil, to a situation in which the recipients are taught, not merely to discharge the duties of this life with credit to themselves, but to prepare for that which is to come.

From scenes and prospects of utter wretch-

edness and depravity,—from the horrors of gin palaces, and the unnumbered ills which result from poverty and destitution—this invaluable institution has rescued hundreds of children, and removed them to a country where industry and honest enterprise are amply rewarded, and where moral and religious instruction is imparted to them freely and without price. Who would not desire to participate in this labour of love? What person, under the influence of Christian principles, could desire a higher honour, than to be instrumental in obeying his Saviour's mandate, by affording the best of all relief to children, the offspring of want or of vice, whom he has never seen, and from whom he will probably never receive even an acknowledgment of his bounty? Yes, Sir, this Society is earning the imperishable gratitude of thousands who, as parents and relations, or as wards, are directly or indirectly benefited by its benevolent operations. *Esto perpetua.*

A Letter addressed to the Chairman of the Committee, of which the following is a copy, has been received from Ewan Christian, Esq. Treasurer to the Commissioners for the Guardianship of Juvenile Emigrants, dated at Cape Town, 15th of July, 1836.

I have the pleasure to announce the arrival of the 20 boys by the *Bachelor*, all in high health, and that they have been assigned to suitable masters in the country, with the exceptions of P. Fowler and T. Conway, who are assigned* in town; the latter that he may be near his sister,† *who is a very well conducted girl*, now in the service of Mr. Ruthersford, one of our Board.

On the 3rd ultimo I had the pleasure to make a remittance, and transmit a requisition for 25 boys; I have now to request that 40 more boys may be sent out by the first favourable opportunity; but I venture to urge on your attention the importance of their having

* Meaning apprenticed.

† Also sent out by the Society.

been in training in your Institution for some time previous to embarkation.

I would also suggest that, in the list to accompany the boys, as required by the third section of the Ordinance transmitted to you, the day of birth of each child should be inserted, that we may not indenture them beyond their minority. This is the more necessary as some of the boys have written home and produced certificates of baptism, proving them of age some months previous to the expiration of their indentures, which causes dissatisfaction both in the master and apprentice.*

Captain Ellis and Mr. Cousins have shown much kindness and attention to the boys, as has also the mate of the vessel.

* See Rule 16, p. 101.

*Extracts from the Laws and Regulations of the
Children's Friend Society.*

5. A donation of £5 or upwards shall constitute the donor a *Member for Life*.

6. A subscription of 5s. or more, yearly, shall constitute an *Annual Member*; and by increasing the subscription to £5 within the year, the subscriber shall become a Life Member.

7. All Members shall have a right to vote upon every question propounded, and every election held, at any General Meeting of the Society.

8. A legacy of £10 and upwards, bequeathed to the Society, shall constitute the first named acting Executor a Member for life.

9. Every annual subscription shall be considered as made on the 1st of June, or on the 1st of December next preceding the first payment.

10. All contributors shall receive, upon demand at the time of payment, tickets to the

amount of their respective donations or subscriptions.*

11. Any person contributing the sum of £15, or producing tickets to that amount, shall be entitled to place a child upon the male or female establishment, as the case may be. If, however, the child to be admitted should be under the age of 11, the sum of 4s. per week shall be paid for such child over and above the entrance-money, until it shall attain that age.

12. Children will be received from public institutions or parishes on payment of a weekly sum of 4s., and also of £10 when placed out, or embarked.

13. No boy or girl shall be admitted to the benefits of the Society below the age of 11, nor above the age of 14. Provided always that the General Committee of management shall have power, in special cases, to admit any child between the ages of nine and sixteen, if in the latter case the child be of good moral character.

14. A limited number of young children will be received into the female establishment

* Tickets are the Collectors receipts for the donors' subscription.

at Chiswick, from public institutions or parishes, on payment of 4s. 3d. per week, and without entrance money, to be educated upon the infant school system—their continuance in the institution must, however, depend upon the discretion of the General Committee of Management.

15. No child shall be received by the Society until it shall have been examined by a medical man, and certified to be in a sound state of health.

16. The Committee must, as far as possible, be satisfied that the child to be admitted has been baptized; and the age stated, on admission, must be considered as final, in regard to the period of apprenticeship for which the child is to be bound in the Colonies.

17. Subject to the three last regulations, and to the approval of the General Committee, any child shall be eligible to the benefits of the Institution.

18. Upon admission, the boys shall be placed in the Asylum at Hackney Wick, and the girls in the Asylum at Chiswick, and retained there respectively, till considered by

the General Committee fit for service, or other employment.

19. No child whatever shall be placed at service, apprenticed, or otherwise provided for in England, nor sent from England, without the previous sanction of the General Committee of Management; and no child shall be sent from England without its own free consent, and the consent of its parents or guardians.

20. On the withdrawal of a child from the Institution, all claim to the money paid with it will be forfeited ; and a refusal to go abroad will be considered equivalent to a withdrawal.

In the next number we propose giving a Copy of the Ordinance enacted by the Governor of the Cape of Good Hope, with the advice and consent thereof, in favour of this Society.

Address to Masters and Officers of Ships who may at any time convey our Children to the Colonies.

Gentlemen,—The Committee of management of the Children's Friend Society most earnestly bespeak your benevolent offices in behalf of the poor children entrusted to your care; they appeal to you as men, as Englishmen, as Christians, and as British sailors, to treat them with all the kindness and attention of which their situation is susceptible, and of which, being entirely in your power, they stand so much in need.

The Committee being conversant in naval and mercantile shipping—their rules and discipline, and deeply sensible of the necessity of preserving due subordination on board, have been very assiduous in their endeavours to instil into the minds of these poor uneducated boys the duties of obedience and respect to their superiors: 150 of them have been at one time under the care of only the head and second master, and yet they have never had recourse to blows to enforce their authority; mild but firm expostulation,

104 ADDRESS TO MASTERS AND OFFICERS.

with very little solitary confinement, have been found sufficient in general to preserve order and regularity, always bearing in mind that great kindness is the basis of our discipline.

The Committee, deeply anxious for the safe and comfortable conveyance of these young people to the place of their destination, confidently rely on your care and attention to watch over their morals, to supply their reasonable wants, and above all, to guard them from contamination and vice.

Address to the Colonists.

The Committee of management of the Children's Friend Society beg most earnestly and respectfully to call the attention of the Colonists to the young emigrants who are from time to time sent out to them, as it is hoped, for the mutual benefit of the employers and their servants.

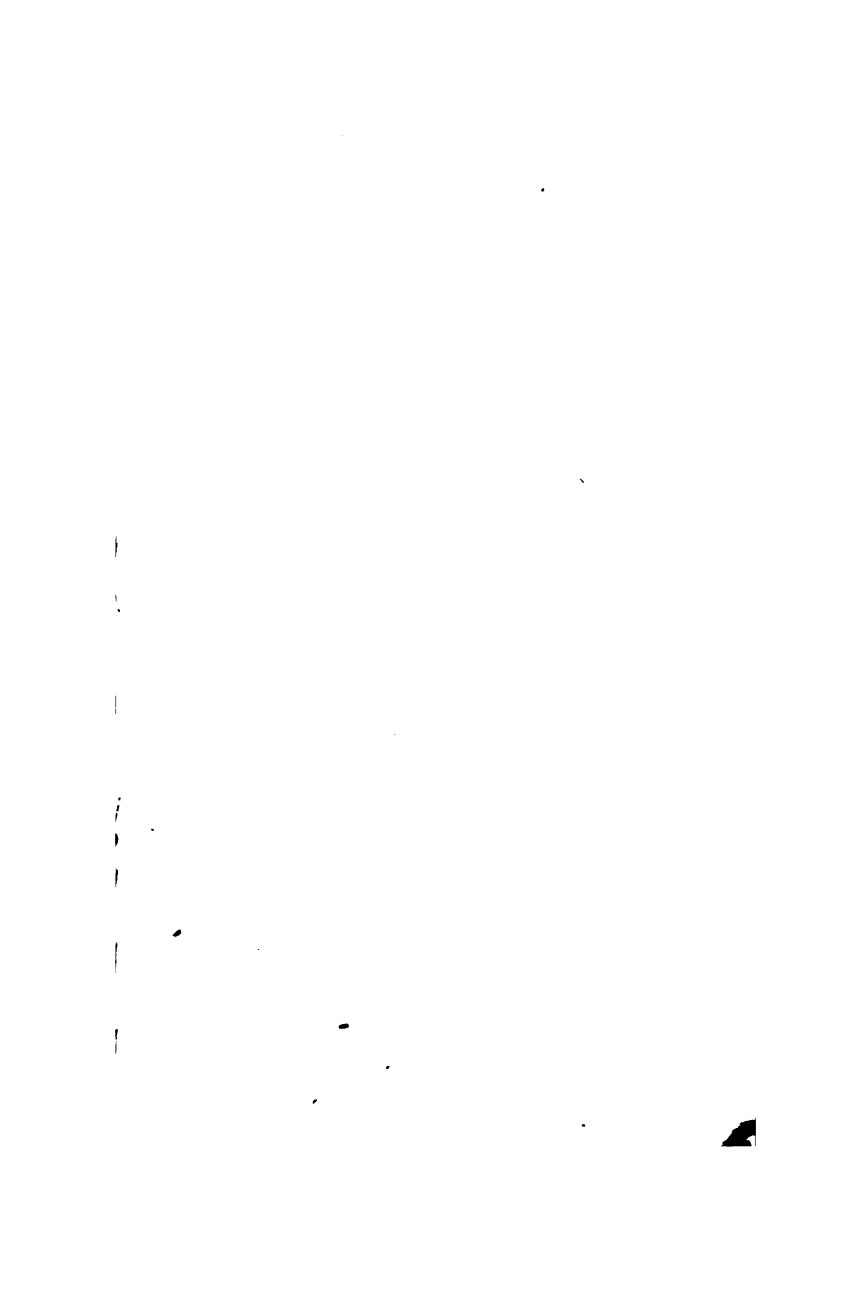
These poor children, are, without any exception, objects of the greatest compassion. Orphans, or driven from home by unkind or profligate parents, or victims of second marriages of father or mother, the most fruitful source of vice and misery to the children of the poor.

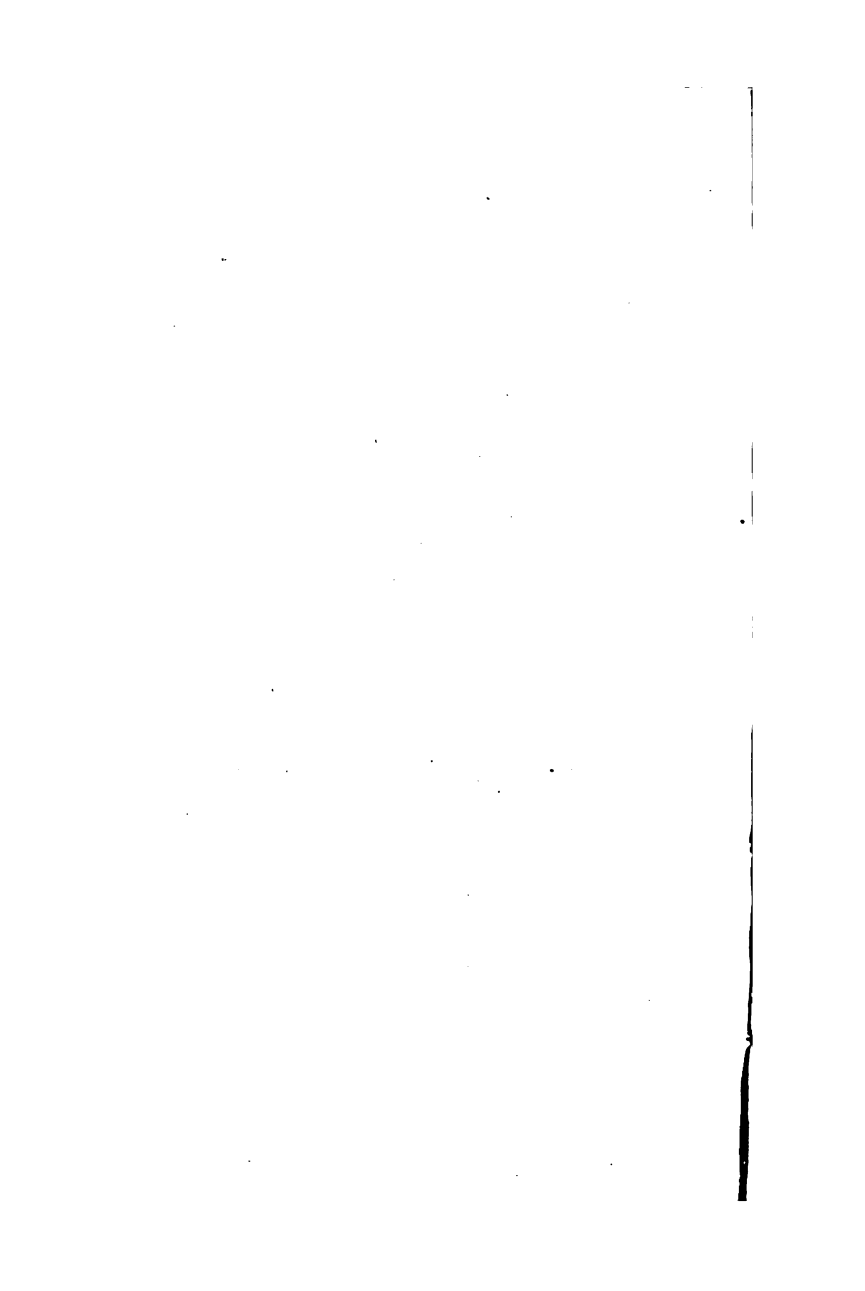
During the brief space which these children have been under the care of the Committee, every endeavour has been made, and it is hoped with some success, to eradicate their vicious habits, when they have had any, and to give their minds a direction towards virtue and industry. The means adopted have been those of mildness, firmness, and gentle kindness, and they have found the

plan to answer, even with young persons on whom every kind of severity had been tried in vain.

The Committee therefore confidently recommend to the benevolent masters and mistresses of these poor children, a rigid perseverance in the same measures which have led to such favourable results, fully persuaded that the Colonists will reap an ample reward in the cheerful and willing labour of their servants, who, freed from the contamination of their early associates, will not fail by good example to become virtuous and happy members of society.

Finally, the Committee beg to call the attention of the Colonists to the history of the Society and its objects, contained in the little book with which each child is furnished, and to request that they may be frequently reminded of the maxims contained in it. The Committee trust they need scarcely advert to the absolute necessity of punctual attention to family worship, and to divine service in the church.





CONTINUATION OF
"THE BIBLE AND SPADE;"

OR,
THE HISTORY OF
FANNY FORSHER,

A Moral Tale,

DRAWN FROM REAL LIFE,

AND INTENDED FOR THE INSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF
THE CHILDREN OF

HACKNEY WICK AND CHISWICK SCHOOLS.

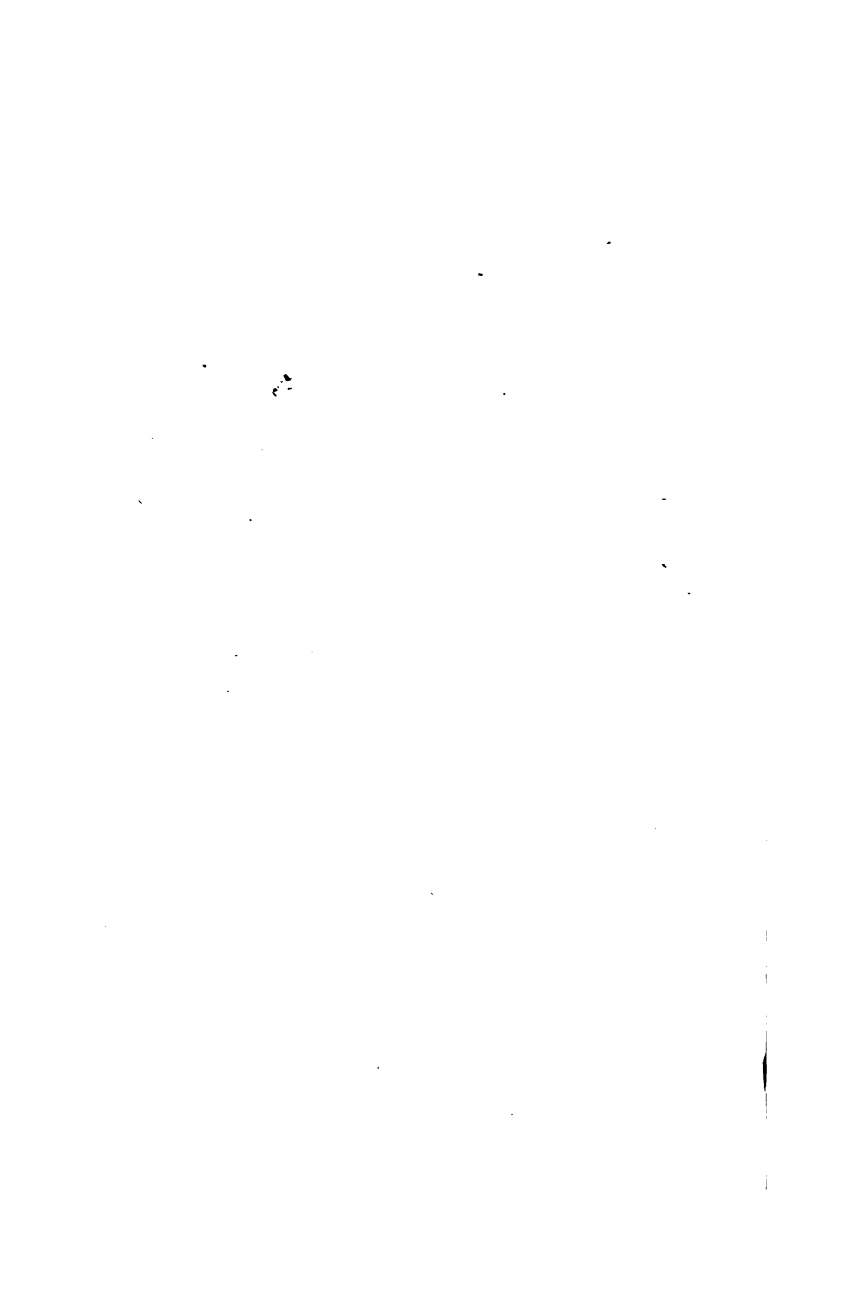
BY CAPTAIN BRENTON,

ROYAL NAVY.



LONDON:
JAMES NISBET AND CO. BERNERS STREET.

MDCCCXXXVII.



HISTORY
OF
FANNY FORSHER,
A MORAL TALE.

THE decline and ruin of families, or their rise and prosperity, may, like that of empires, be traced to the neglect or the practice of those moral and religious duties which are enjoined in Holy Writ. We stand, individually and collectively, self-convicted of those acts of disobedience which were the known forerunners of the destruction of the Jewish nation, and of other mighty empires, whose remembrance is now nearly perished from the face of the earth.

The denunciation against those who "join house to house and field to field," Isaiah v. 8, "that rise up early in the morning to follow strong drink," v. 11, that violate the sabbaths, are given in vain to the glutton, the drunkard, and the card player, at their nightly orgies. In the duty which I have imposed on myself, that of endeavouring to improve

the condition of the poor by precepts and examples—"all these things are against me"—but accustomed to overcome difficulties, neither ridicule nor abuse, of which I have had my share, shall ever induce me to relax in my efforts for the attainment of this important end; experience and common observation convince us that the workhouses and prisons derive their inmates from among that class in society which has shewn the greatest disregard to the word of God. My object is to warn and instruct the young, to lead them by insensible degrees into the paths of virtue, and to add them to the pillars of the state. The poor being the base of the pyramid on which our national grandeur reposes, must be carefully watched and attended; their moral and religious habits must not be allowed to deteriorate, otherways the superstructure will fall—and "great will be the fall thereof." There is one great and unerring principle which the working classes should ever have impressed on their minds, namely, that virtuous industry tends to worldly happiness and comfort, as much as it affords assurances of an increase of that happiness to all eternity; while, on the other hand, vice and idleness

lead to certain ruin here, and misery hereafter. Thus making every allowance for the mysterious dispensations of the Almighty, by whom the good are often taken away and the wicked are permitted to remain, it is evident that our welfare and happiness depend almost entirely on ourselves. "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted; and if thou doest not well sin lieth at the door."—Gen. iv. 7.

The incidents in the following little history, drawn from real life, will show that although vice may triumph for a short period, that it will be punished at last. "Vengeance though slow is sure, it comes with leaden feet but strikes with iron hands." So, on the contrary, virtue is equally certain to be rewarded; and though our worldly prospects are clouded by temporary visitation, yet if we hold fast our integrity, we shall rise above our sufferings with redoubled splendour.

The ancestor of the Wilson family kept an old iron shop in Petticoat Lane, Whitechapel: he was a dealer in marine stores.

Old Wilson kept upwards of thirty boys and girls, from ten to fifteen years of age, constantly in his employment; these unhappy

beings were trained to every sort of crime, stealing, pilfering, passing base coin, and bringing home to their employer at night the produce of their guilty day. The scenes of vice and early depravity carried on in this and similar dens of iniquity were too shocking to be described, and dreadful to say, they still exist. I can remember very well when men went about the streets crying out for bad shillings; these they bought for two-pence or three-pence a piece, and having washed them over they were passed as good. The new silver coinage put a stop to this practice, and base money ceased to be as common as it was, but still the passing of it is one of the first initiations to crime.

By these means old Wilson had amassed great wealth, some of which he placed in the funds; with some he purchased land in Leicestershire, and resolved to establish a great family name. He had but one son, and he was not born in wedlock; but this youth he was resolved to make a gentleman, and as the neighbours used to say, "the first of his family." Master Jacob Theophilus Wilson was, therefore, at the age of nine years, confided to the care of Mr. Birch, who, at the ex-

piration of the first half year, sent him home to his father with the assurance that he was a boy of the finest capacity in the world, that he was led by a hair, that he was amiable and noble minded, and no doubt would one day cut a figure in the House of Commons; he almost fancied he saw him Chancellor of the Exchequer, or, at least, a Judge on the circuit. The old iron man believed all this against his own conviction; for although he had never allowed him to associate, or even to be acquainted, with the select apprentices whom he employed, still he always thought and knew him to be both a stupid and an obstinate boy, and used often to say, that "he might be fooled out of a fortune, but never would acquire one." This was quite prophetic, as will be seen in the sequel. Mr. Birch's fulsome flattery had, however, so far won the father's heart, that he continued little Jacob at his school until he had attained his fifteenth year, when the master suggested the propriety of placing him under the care of Mr. Supple, a friend of his, to prepare him for the University; and accordingly he was sent to this sage personage, who, for the consideration of £200 a year, engaged in two years to turn

him out equal to any young man of his age in sound classical knowledge.

It was not, however, till Jacob had been full three years, instead of two, under the care of Mr. Supple that he was fit to be presented to the University, and even then his acquirements were of the most moderate order. But to Oxford he went, and was entered at Brazennose, where a college tutor was provided for him—a needy young man, who was given to understand, that although Mr. Jacob Theophilus Wilson was not born a peer, there was money enough in store to make him one, and that a plentiful supply would be found for him during his terms, to put him on a footing with “the tufted nobility.”

The tutor was not long in selecting for his pupil a set of companions who were, as he said, to stimulate and excite him to the attainment of the highest honours which learning could confer; but the unhappy youth found in them only the matured companions with whom he had begun life at Mr. Birch’s school. They were young men of dissolute manners, who despised learning, endeavoured to set the rules of the college and the laws of the university at defiance, and to dare the autho-

rities to do their worst. As soon, therefore, as they received the accession of young Wilson among their number, and found that his purse was to supply their extravagance, they gave a full swing to their licentiousness. Things went great lengths in his apartments during the first term, and he was warned by the Proctors and Principal that there were limits to forbearance and indulgence, beyond which he must not expect to go with impunity. This produced no other effect than a hearty laugh at the expense of the speakers, and in the next term they were all expelled. Thus did these foolish young men not only forfeit their own fair prospects in life, but destroyed the goose which laid the golden eggs. Old Wilson was outrageous when he heard that his son was expelled : was certain it was all envy at his great talents, and was sure it was because the Principal was afraid his pupil would supplant him in the attainment of academic honours.

When the toad-eaters and sycophants who had thus contributed to the ruin of young Wilson found themselves involved in his misfortune, they insulted, instead of condoling with him, his purse being no longer at their

service. He was told, in allusion to his father's former occupation, "to take his brazen nose where it was not known, as the only chance of passing his counterfeit for good coin."

The Oxford expedition cost old Wilson, from first to last, £4000; nor would he have complained of this, had not the expulsion blasted alike his hopes of family aggrandizement and high aristocratic connection; for although this sordid old man was unceasingly pouring forth his abuse on the rich and the great, yet there was nothing he so ardently desired as to be connected with them. He now perceived the depth of Birch's flattery, and was so far from expecting to see his son Chancellor of the Exchequer, or even a Judge on the circuit, that he would gladly have been assured that he would not be handed into court under very different auspices; so heartily execrating the lying flattery of Mr. Birch and the tutors, he took him home to his cottage at Mile End, where a very warm altercation ensued between them. The father reproached the son for his folly and extravagance; the son ungratefully retorted on the father for the false steps

he had taken with his early education, the first years of which were passed at a very low day school at Stratford-le-Bow ; his removal to Birch's was going from bad to worse ; it was falsely called " a cheap boarding school," cheap feeding and poor teaching, with extravagant bills at the end of the year, more than double what had been promised by the master : then said the boy, with too much reason, you gave me and my tutor to understand, when I went to Oxford, that money was not an object, and that I was to vie with the nobility and gentry in every expense ; and because we drank our claret pretty freely, as the nobility did, in order to live like gentlemen, we were expelled ; pray whose fault was that, father ? not mine, I am sure.

Wilson, though a rogue, and in other respects a miser, loved his son, and was willing to overlook what had passed, convinced that much, if not the whole of it was his own doing ; he therefore shook hands with him, and told him that all should be forgotten, and that he should go down into Leicestershire to look after the estates, which would one day be his own.

This plan was far more agreeable to Jacob than the study of the Latin and Greek authors, which he never understood. He soon became initiated in the art and mystery of fox-hunting, and was in time a keen sportsman ; in his 26th year he was looked on as a promising young man by those who measured excellence by the distance a man could ride, the leaps he could take, his judgment in women and horseflesh, and by the number of bottles of wine he could carry home without being thought excessively drunk ; his consequence was greatly increased in his own estimation, when he was nominated one of the grand jury, and he stood a foot higher when he was chosen their foreman, and went into court with true bills against some hundred and twenty poor creatures for the violation of those laws which they had never heard of until they were brought before their judges for breaking them. "The Gentlemen of the Grand Jury," whose business it should have been to see that these unhappy people had been better instructed, were perhaps those who set them the most fatal examples. And it was no uncommon thing for a culprit to be condemned to hard labour for poaching

by the very persons who had neglected his education, for fear, as they foolishly said, he should become "*as wise as themselves*;" they would not allow them to be taught reading and writing, "for fear they should be hanged for forgery." How many weeping eyes and broken hearts went out of that court in consequence of their culpable stupidity and neglect, it is now needless to say; let it be our care to prevent such scenes in future.

The grand jury dinners and the assize balls brought a vast concourse of company into the place; and it is remarkable, and not much to our honour, that all or most of our gay doings in the county towns occur when a portion of our fellow-creatures are suffering the most acute misery, and many of them are about to expiate their guilt with their lives. I *can* make allowance for the ignorant and the uneducated, but none for those whose education should place them above such heartless doings. We will hope that these days of darkness are passing away, and that the bonds of union between the rich and the poor are gaining strength, and consolidating the happiness of the empire and of mankind.

Encouraged by his brother jurymen, with professions of esteem either real or pretended, young Wilson began to suppose himself a country gentleman of some importance, and considering the landed property he was heir to, fancied himself a match for any heiress in the county; with this high estimation of himself, he proposed to Arabella Forsher, the daughter of Abraham Forsher, Esq. a gentleman of an ancient and respectable family, and of very considerable property; but notwithstanding the high-sounding name of Mr. Jacob Theophilus Wilson, and his large expected fortune, Arabella at once rejected him; she could not endure his vulgarity, his open contempt of religion, his constant violation of the Sabbath, his oaths, his company, and his habits of intemperance.

The rage of the father and son was only equalled by their disappointment at this unexpected refusal, and both of them vowed revenge, which unhappily they were too well able to gratify. Wilson had purchased an estate, which, excepting on the high road, surrounded the rural and happy abode called Cherry Hill Farm, the property of Mr. Forsher; this gave him the power of either

obstructing or rendering impassable many of the bridle roads and footpaths leading into the grounds of his adversary. The influence he had obtained in the neighbourhood by means of his wealth, completely overpowered Mr. Forsher, who contended against him in law, until he found he was only throwing good money after bad; he therefore resolved at once to quit the country—nor did he come to this resolution an hour too soon. He advertised Cherry Hill Farm for sale, and determined to let it go for whatever it would fetch, and to remove entirely out of the way of a man with whom he had no feeling in common; the very air of whose mansion was tainted; the corruption which originated in the parlour at Iron Park pervaded not only every part of that establishment, but spread like an infection into the surrounding country. It had reached the sweet and happy abode at Cherry Hill; not a servant would remain, higher wages and superior tables were offered at the Park, and if another servant was procured, the same cause produced again the same effect. It was therefore not a matter of choice, but of dire necessity, which induced him to sell his

patrimonial estate, and unfortunately the same cause which compelled him to sell, prevented others from buying. Wilson's agent had therefore scarcely one competitor at the sale; the property was knocked down much beneath its value; and being paid for immediately as one of the conditions, an important document was not called for by the purchaser, whose lawyer happened to be a bungler, and did not see that, without this paper or parchment, his client's title was not clear. The error was discovered too late, Mr. Forsher had obtained the money, and would not give up more than he had agreed for, while Wilson was advised not to go to law about it, as it would only increase the expense without the probability of gaining the point; besides, his legal adviser assured him that his possession was sound; and the document could never be required, unless in the event of his wishing to sell it; with this assurance the old man was satisfied, and Mr. Forsher having paid every shilling which he owed, retired with his family to Ongar, in Essex, where he ended his days in peace, and his excellent wife survived him but a few years.

Arabella, the eldest of seven children, was constant and unwearied in her attention to her mother during her illness, and reproached herself with being the cause of their misfortune, but this Mrs. Forsher never would listen to. "Do you think, my dear girl," said she, "that any thing this world could give, would compensate in my mind for your being married to a man whom we all of us despise. No, my child, I die happy in the certainty that you never can or will be the wife of a man who fears not God;" these were her last words, and were a source of consolation to poor Arabella as long as she lived. She was left with a small income to superintend the education of her five brothers and a sister. Abraham Forsher, her eldest brother, married at the age of thirty, and was the grandfather of the heroine of this history.

We now return to Wilson and his Leicestershire friends; having "slain and taken possession," like Ahab, of Naboth's vineyard, he thought he had nothing to do but enjoy himself; he began to pull down old barns, and to build new ones, to grub up fences and hedges, and to lay out the grounds in the most approved taste; but in the midst of all

this enjoyment, if such it could be called, he was suddenly cut off by an apoplectic fit, and was carried to his grave unpitied and unlamented, nor was his corpse allowed to remain in it very long, for on the same night after its interment, it was taken, with the connivance of the clerk and the grave-digger, and conveyed to a dissecting room. The country people even made a joke of it, and said, "the doctors wanted to see the inside of a man, that had lived without a heart." Mr. Jacob Theophilus Wilson was too much overjoyed at coming into the whole of his father's property, to think or care of what became of his body or his soul; he therefore went on pulling down and re-building; new stables and dog-kennels sprang up in the place of the old ones, the finest horses were purchased at any expense, the armoury contained a countless collection of the best fowling-pieces, rifles, and pistols. Dog fanciers or dog stealers were never away from the gate, bringing the most beautiful animals which they dealt in from all parts of the country, sure of a ready market at Iron Park Hall.

Having at length succeeded in getting his buildings completed, he once more turned his

thoughts on matrimony, and not aspiring so high as in his former attempt, the result was more successful. There lived a lady in that part of the country, whose father had been a pastry-cook and confectioner in London, and who, like old Wilson, had acquired a large fortune, but in a more reputable manner; he had an only daughter, not very handsome, nor yet very young, nor very highly gifted; but her father admitting that she wanted most things except age, gave out that the amount of her fortune would be found to compensate for all other deficiencies; and he thought that £35,000, (£1,000 for every year she had attained,) would make her equal to any offer she was likely to have. Young Wilson thought so too, and as his expenses were always running before his income, the fortune of Miss Dorothy Puff was not to be despised. He therefore sought her hand in marriage, and those objections which weighed so heavily in the mind of Arabella Forsher, found no place in the bosom of Dorothy, who from her earliest childhood had been so accustomed to pass her Sundays "in taking, (as she called it,) a little pleasure," that she never once thought of going to church. There had

been, it is true, a Bible in the house *once* upon a time; it belonged to a formal old maid of her mother's, and this woman, she said, "took it away with her, and gave up a good place, like a fool as she was, because she was not allowed time to read it, nor permitted to go to church of a Sunday." Such was Dolly's idea of "a fool," and such was the account she gave of her early habits and training. She was now to become the mistress of a family, and we shall soon see the effects of such an education and the fruits which it produced, at the mansion of Iron Park; "like master like man" is a very old and a very true saying, and it applies equally well to the mistress and the maids.

It very soon appeared that Mrs. Wilson was entirely out of her element, and she found the difference between the management of a cook's shop, and a large country house, with an establishment of servants within and grooms without; among whom neither order or religion or morals had ever been known. Sunday was not distinguished from any other day in the week, except by the distant sound of the church bells, more work in the morning, and more drunkenness at night. The

horses and carriages were out as usual, and the billiard table, if any thing, more frequented: the gardener refused to work to be sure, and so did the out-door labourers, not from any respect for the day, but because, like Mrs. Wilson, they liked to have a little pleasure and the day to themselves. The female attendants having no rule of duty to guide them, followed the mere instinct of nature, or more properly speaking, the precepts and example which they received from their master and mistress.

After Mrs. Wilson had produced a son, the disorders of the house increased, and it was observed, that although the lady's maid and the nurse, behaved with the utmost insolence, and treated their mistress with shameful neglect, yet neither of them were sent away; for two very good reasons, the first was, that both of them knew secrets which it was feared they would divulge, and the second, that it was well known if they changed at all they must change for the worse, as no servant of any character would enter the house; of so much consequence is it for masters and mistresses to have characters as well as servants. The Sunday dinners being generally more

convivial than those of week days, it was the more difficult for the domestics to attend to their duty, if they had been so disposed ; but seeing that the fourth commandment was unheeded by their betters, they naturally concluded that the other nine might be equally useless ; plunder, drunkenness, swearing, and every other vice forbidden in the decalogue, now reigned triumphant in Iron Park Hall, and a tradesman, who went to have his bill paid, was sure of cheating by an overcharge, or being cheated by the loss of his time, or some excuse for the non-payment of his demand. The gardener sold all the best produce, and the coachman, for a bribe, allowed the corn Chandler to charge double. The housekeeper, unable to obtain payment in any other way, was contented to steal for her living, and no one servant either dared or cared to tell of another, for all were alike guilty. The worthless master and mistress saw this, and yet could not help themselves ; they were so deeply involved in the slough of their own making, that to retreat was impossible, and to advance was certain ruin ; how cautious then should we be never to swerve from that right path which once lost can

so rarely be regained. Three boys, Henry, George, and Edward, the fruits of this unfortunate marriage, were packed off to a boarding school as soon as they successively attained the age of six years, not because the parents at all cared for their education, but to keep them out of the way. Edward lost his life at the age of nine, by being dragged out of his bed in a cold night in January, and made to remain exposed in his shirt for two or three hours; the consequence was a cold of which he died. The master said he never interfered in the private quarrels of the boys, all he required of them was so much Latin and Greek and arithmetic, and if he got his money at the end of the half year he was satisfied. This is too much the custom in our own day.

Whether Mr. Wilson had discovered any symptoms of infidelity in his wife, or whether his extravagance had so embarrassed his circumstances that he saw ruin staring him in his face, cannot now be known. Certain it is, that the estate had lasted much longer than had been expected by those who saw what was going on; equally certain that he had long been in a desponding way. One morning he was found hanging and quite dead in

his dressing room. When this melancholy catastrophe happened, Henry Wilson was at Cambridge; he had just entered his twenty-second year, when he received an express to inform him of the event, and of the necessity of his immediate return to Iron Park. This young man was no favourite with his mother. He had long seen, with the deepest concern, the sad state of affairs and the degraded condition of his family; he had even gone so far as to remonstrate with his father and mother on the example set to the servants, and stated the conduct of the latter in very glaring colours, as certain to end in destruction of the family and the estate. The youth had received some good impressions at school, notwithstanding the bad example there set him, and they had been improved by his accidentally being well placed at College, having devoted himself to the church; his first care after seeing the funeral of his father decently performed, was to endeavour to reform the whole establishment, to pay off all the debts and mortgages, to provide for his mother's jointure, and the education of his brother.

In order to carry these good resolutions into effect, he was obliged to proceed by

subtlety. He knew that every servant in the house would be his enemy the moment he declared his intention of becoming a reformer. He therefore dissembled, and gave out that every thing was to go on for the present as it had done, and that he should keep open house: beds were ordered to be prepared for ten gentlemen and as many servants. The domestics of Iron Hall were in ecstasies; all was to be pleasure and happiness, and for four days and nights they indulged themselves in their flattering dreams. But on Monday morning, after the funeral, a party of horsemen were seen riding up the avenue. Alighting at the front door, each gentleman gave his horse to his own groom; after remaining there in conversation with the master about a quarter of an hour, they came out with Mr. Wilson, who ordered his coachman and helpers to attend to the horses, and see them taken proper care of. When this had been settled, and the guests partaken of some refreshment, the plot was unfolded. All the servants, both male and female, were summoned to the great hall. The guests were seated: two of the attendants stood near their masters; eight remained

outside, watching any person who might attempt to leave or to enter the mansion. When Mr. Wilson saw all his pale, trembling, and guilty servants before him, he thus addressed them ; " You are now, I perceive, fully sensible that the day of reckoning is come. Your guilty career is at an end : you must restore the property you have stolen, and you must quit this mansion for ever." These words came upon them like an earthquake. Some burst into tears, and fell on their knees ; some implored forgiveness, and said they would disclose every thing if their master would only overlook their faults. Mr. Wilson remained very firm : he demanded of the butler his account, and the same of the housekeeper, the coachman, and the bailiff. Not one was prepared ; all made some excuse. But no delay was allowed ; they were ordered to quit the premises forthwith, and when their accounts were ready, they were directed to take them to a gentleman of the law, whose name and address was furnished to each, and if found just they were to be paid. Some of the men were very indignant at this, and inclined to be insolent, declaring that they would not quit

the house without their wages, and one month in advance into the bargain, instead of their warning ; upon which a grave elderly gentleman made a motion to a constable who was behind his chair. The man took out his staff, declared himself a sheriff's officer, said that he had come to search the servants' trunks and boxes for stolen property, and not one of them should quit the premises until they were searched. At this moment a rush was made to get out of the hall doors, all the servants making at once for their own apartments ; but the magistrate, who had come as Mr. Wilson's friend, was too cunning for them. Every room was found to be locked, and an officer in the passages leading to them prevented any secret transaction. From insolence they now fell to the most humble and whining entreaties, but the officers were ordered to proceed with their search. The first room they went to was the butler's ; his keys were demanded, and reluctantly given up. In his boxes were found concealed many articles of plate belonging to his late master ; these were sealed up and labelled. They went through the other rooms, and in each of them more or less of stolen property

was discovered. The magistrate assured Mr. Wilson that he had sufficient evidence to hang them, (transportation had not then been invented, except now and then a few to America,) but the kind-hearted young man said he must make a great allowance for the manner in which these people had been trained, and as the magistrate had not detected the servants in the act of taking the property out of the house, he hoped it would not be compounding felony if he paid them their wages up to the period of his father's death, and discharged them. This he was the more anxious to do, as he knew that in a court of law there would be a cruel exposure of his family concerns, and the magistrate, who was a worthy humane man, having consented, they were all again re-assembled in the hall, when they were told by Mr. Simmons, the magistrate, after a suitable admonition, that their master had pardoned them. They now burst into tears of gratitude and repentance. They flocked round Mr. Wilson, caught hold of his hands, kissed them, and wet them with their tears, and promised never again, if they could once get into service, to live in a family where the Sabbath day was not

kept holy and respected. After this they were all dismissed from the mansion. Mr. Wilson's friends, who had come with the magistrate and the constables, had brought their own servants to assist in the work of the house until others could be procured. When every thing was set in order his kind friends took their leave, and Iron Park Hall now began to assume a very different aspect to what it had ever done before; but it was not doomed long to remain so :

The land that's wet with orphans' tears,
Will never thrive for scores of years.

The curse of the Almighty rested on the inheritance; its present owner had done much for it, he had redeemed some of the mortgages, and was going on rapidly to emancipate the property from incumbrance; he had married a very beautiful and amiable young lady, but she died of consumption in the course of the first year, and Mr. Wilson himself survived only three months. He was one of those bright ornaments to human nature whom we are only allowed to gaze on for a short time, and they are taken to a better world because they are too good for

this, and because "this is not their place of rest." Sensible that his end was approaching, he sent for his brother, and gave him the best advice as to his future conduct, told him what he had done for the estate, and how much better he left it than he had found it. He conjured him not to allow the same scenes to be acted over again which had proved so ruinous in his father's time, and having given him his blessing, he calmly expired in the thirtieth year of his age.

His worthless brother heard these dying injunctions with the most perfect indifference, if not with impatience, longing only for the fatal moment which should put him in possession of the property, and dreadful was the day for Iron Park when Henry Wilson expired. The servants, the whole village, the surrounding neighbourhood, nay, the whole county, deplored him as if they had lost their nearest and dearest relative. The peasantry, of their own free-will, established a nightly watch over his grave in order to guard it from the violation which had been done to the body of his deceased grandfather. Their grief was the more acute as they knew

that the successor to their beloved landlord and master was the very reverse to his brother in every respect.

George Wilson was "a chip` of the old block," at once profuse and parsimonious, a spendthrift and miser. He had nothing to give to the poor because he squandered it all on his guilty pleasures, and he omitted no act of meanness to save a penny, even at the expense of justice and veracity.

All the good regulations adopted by his elder brother were soon set aside ; the servants whom he had brought into the house were either turned away or left of their own accord ; the Clergyman of the Village, the Rev. Mr. Thornton, whose visits had been so frequent and so useful to the Hall, now rarely came, certain of being insulted by the menials, or treated with rudeness by the master. George had secretly married his mother's maid, a worthless young woman, who had borne him four children ; the youngest of these was at this time a year old ; the oldest six. His mother was privy to this marriage ; she was herself a corrupt woman, and as before stated, had taken an aversion to her eldest son, from his dissimilarity of mind and character to her-

self. George was her idol, because he flattered her; she therefore supplied him with money to gratify his lawless appetites, and winked at the union between him and her maid, in order to bribe the latter to silence on certain weak points of her own. This foolish woman now came, by the invitation of her son and daughter-in-law, to reside again in her mansion, from whence her eldest son had removed her to a very comfortable boarding-house, with a respectable and pious family, where her bills were regularly paid by his own steward; and he gave her, besides, a handsome allowance for her private expenses; but this was not the life she wished to lead; she sighed again for the liberty of Iron Park Hall, and she soon had it with a vengeance. She had not been in the house a week before she found herself treated with so much scorn and contempt by her daughter-in-law, that she complained to her son, from whom she never once doubted that she should receive ample redress, but she was mistaken; the wicked have no friendship with each other, however nearly related, and Mr. George Wilson told his mother, that if she did not like her situation she was at perfect liberty to

go back to that which she had lately quitted. This, however, could not be, for the good people who had received her on Mr. Henry Wilson's recommendation and responsibility, refused to do so for Mr. George Wilson, who was a very different character, and as she knew of no other place to which she could resort, except the workhouse, if they would have received her there, she was compelled to remain where she was, and to see and enjoy the fruits of her own plan in the education and training of her darling son. Contrasting his conduct with that of his elder brother, who had always (no thanks to her) been fond of his Bible, she began to wish she had paid more attention to that sacred volume; she immediately procured one, which, as long as she had her reason, afforded her some comfort. She suspected that her mother's maid, who left because she was not allowed time to read it, was not so great a fool as she had thought her. One day her son shut the parlour door in her face, and she ventured to name to him the fifth Commandment, but the only answer she obtained was, that she knew *she* had never cared for the Bible or the commandments until she wanted them to serve her own pur-

pose; that if she had believed in them she ought to have instructed him in them, and if she now told the truth, she had not done her duty, and therefore deserved all she met with from these reproaches; the unkindness and ingratitude of her son and daughter-in-law, together with the insults of the servants, contrasted with the affectionate conduct of her departed son, Henry, whom she had used so ill, and the degradation of being turned out of her sleeping apartment to make room for a visitor, a female friend of Mrs. George Wilson, and a woman of bad character, completed the overthrow of her reason; she remained a raving lunatic in the house till the day of her second son's death.

Eight years had elapsed since Iron Park had fallen into the hands of George Wilson. In that short period how the wealth of the old miser flew! "riches make themselves wings and fly away." The trees were cut down; the house and stables fell to ruin; the servants and tradesmen were unpaid, and therefore paid themselves by any means in their power; Sunday dinners, and billiards, and cards, and every species of vice, filled up that sacred day which God has set apart for

his own honour and for man's rest, and which never yet was, and never will be, violated with impunity. The scenes at Iron Park Hall on a Sunday evening were more shockingly disgusting than I can describe. Mrs. Jacob Wilson, a screaming maniac in her room, mingling her cries of horror and despair with shouts of the drunkard and blasphemer in the parlour and the kitchen; and the children, whose ages were twelve, ten, and eight, had been brought up to see and get accustomed to all this wickedness. The youngest had died: how happy and fortunate are those who are rescued from such early depravity!

One fine clear morning in the month of November, the Reverend Mr. Thornton, the clergyman, ventured to the mansion, where he knew his presence was not agreeable, but he thought it his duty to go, if only to give the misguided master a chance of doing good, and redeeming at least a part of his errors; but, "those whom God intends to destroy he begins with deceiving." The high-fed horses were at the front door, pawing the earth and neighing, impatient to be in the field: the dogs had been sent off to cover

two hours before. The villagers were all assembled to see the turn out, and Mr. Wilson, with his friends, were just going to mount, when Mr. Thornton made his appearance. "What does that croaking old raven want here?" said the squire; "come a begging, I suppose; the old story." Mr. Thornton made his bow: his venerable appearance, his character, and his known good sense and integrity of heart, awed the thoughtless "hunt" into silence, and the outward semblance of respect; for, to use their own technical phrase, they said he never gave tongue without a cause. "Well, Parson," said the squire, "what has brought you here? You don't often honour us with your company on these occasions. Shall we have Highflyer out for you? he'll carry you safe, if you will but stick on." "I thank you sir," said the clergyman. "I came on a very different errand. Poor Giles's cottage was burnt down last night, and himself and wife and seven children are for the present sheltered in my house; but as I have a large family of my own, I cannot keep them long, and I am seeking a small contribution from my parishioners, in order to set them

up." "These are hard times, Parson," said the squire, roughly, as he put his left foot in the stirrup; and "we can hardly get on as it is," vaulting with agility into his seat, "and besides, I have heard you say that 'those whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth.'" "True, sir, I have said it: but what will the Lord do with those whom he doth not love, and who only repeat his words to insult him?" "Come, come, Parson!" said the fox-hunter, "this is no time for a sermon; we want to be off. There's half-a-crown for you. Mind to join us at dinner? glad to see you, that's all; you shall say grace, and we'll behave as decent as we can while the ladies are at table." Mr. Thornton took the small pittance very thankfully, but declined the invitation; while the squire, as he handed it to him, called "Dick Mullins!" Dick came to him. "Here, you sir," said the unfortunate man, "go directly to Bragg; tell him I'll not go a farthing beyond two hundred guineas for that brown mare. If he'll take that, the bargain's made, and do you give him this guinea to bind it." "Two hundred guineas for the brown mare, and two and sixpence for a houseless and starving family

of nine people!" said Mr. Thornton, involuntarily; "God would have loved you better if you had reversed the sums." "If I had thought I should have had a sermon for it, you shouldn't have had that," said the squire. "It is well," said the clergyman; "I have done my duty, and I hope saved my own soul; but remember, the time is not far distant when 'thou shalt be no longer steward.'" At this moment there was a dreadful cry or yell. A wretched female rushed out of the house, pursued by one or two others. It was Mrs. Jacob Wilson: she had broken away from her keepers while they were idly gazing at the preparations for the chase, and before any one could overtake her, she caught hold of her son's bridle, and, with a voice that made the blood of the bystanders curdle in their veins, and the very hair of their heads to bristle up, she exclaimed in a frantic scream, "For this God shall bring thee to judgment!" The scene was short, but awful and terrific. The squalid and miserable appearance of the poor woman, her tattered garb and filthy linen, and skin begrimed with dirt, had such an effect on the spectators, that a shout

of horror and disgust was spontaneously uttered by all around: the unhappy victim to her own and her parent's folly in rejecting the word of God till it was too late, had caused this dreadful calamity. For a whole year before she went entirely mad, she had been poring almost instinctively over the Bible. She had a confused and imperfect recollection of some things, and occasionally brought coherent sentences out, and applied them "as wild fancy taught her." The clergyman was more shocked than any one else at this spectacle, and Wilson was enraged beyond measure that he should have witnessed the exposure. He roared out to the keepers to take her away, and she was hurried back, foaming and raving, to her desolate apartment, in which she shortly after expired, as if this last prophetic effort had produced the fatal crisis. To the honour of the gentlemen of the hunt, as well as to human nature, it must be admitted that many of the sportsmen turned their horses' heads and rode quietly away, reflecting on what they had seen and heard. Nor would they join the dinner-party, and they secretly determined never to hold any more

communication with Iron Park, or its profligate and unnatural owner.

The squire, however, and some few of his sycophants, affected to laugh it off, and as the park gates were thrown open, away they rushed, galloping as hard as they could, to make up for lost time. "What was that the old fellow muttered about 'not being steward any longer?'" said one of the party. "O, I don't know, nor don't care," said the squire, sticking his spurs into the sides of his steed. They soon reached the cover, when the dogs were "laid on," as it is called, and the tongue of the staunchest hounds gave notice that a fox was found. "Tally ho!" resounded through the fields. Away they all flew, helter skelter, over young corn and ploughed land, hedges and ditches; nothing stopped them, covering each other with mud; some tumbled and got up again; some lay a little while, being stunned, but their horses were caught, and they mounted again, and pursued their mad career till they came to what is called a very ugly leap, the dogs in full cry. The knowing ones went round, some to the right, some to the left, but the squire, who took a pride in out-

doing all competition in rural sports, rode slap at it, sticking his spurs deep into the flanks of his noble animal. The place was a deep ditch, with a hedge on the opposite side, and the arm of an oak-tree projected in such a way as to render it extremely difficult and dangerous to "go for it." But the unhappy squire was doomed to destruction. Alike skilful and daring, he had often done things equally difficult: he laid himself along on his horse, his head down on the animal's mane. But in spite of this caution the bough of the tree took him on the crown, broke in his skull, and dislocated his neck. He fell from his saddle and never spoke afterwards. His lifeless corpse was conveyed back to the mansion from whence he had started only two hours before in perfect health; a death awfully sudden, and the more terrible, as it was so wholly unexpected and unprepared for. The utter ruin of the family followed immediately on this catastrophe. Creditors flocked in from every part; the servants fled with whatever they could carry away with them; the house was occupied by Sheriffs' officers, and surrounded by people who came either from curiosity or to obtain the amount

of their bills. Never, in short, was there such a scene of confusion, dismay, and despair.

The mortgagees and other claimants on the estate having entire possession of the property, refused to allow a shilling to the widow, or her helpless boys; there was no one would befriend them except Mr. Thornton, who had till then been treated as an enemy; he took care of Mrs. Wilson and her sons, and not only supplied their wants as far as his means would permit, but gave them much moral and religious instruction, to which, for some time, their minds were quite impenetrable. Mrs. George Wilson, whose mind was quite unfitted to encounter afflictions so sudden and so severe, died within one month after her husband. Mr. Thornton's only resource was now to send the children to the workhouse, which he reluctantly did, and where the two youngest died in the course of six months. Thomas, the elder, being a stout boy in his thirteenth year, he found a place for with a friend in Essex, Sir Frederick Williamson, who lived only to do good; here Tom Wilson might have been happy if his evil disposition would

have allowed him, but his mind was innately corrupt both by parentage and education ; he was one of those few children whom it was thought kindness could not reclaim, and whom severity would have turned into a wild beast ; for the present we must leave him in the stables, where he was what is called a helper, and turn for a short time to a more agreeable part of our story.

About a mile from Sir Frederick Williamson's residence there was a beautiful little cottage, which for three generations had been in the possession of the same family ; the present occupiers were Abraham Forster, his wife, four daughters, and two sons. Fanny Forster, the eldest of the whole, was one of those happy children for whom nature had done so much, that her excellent mother had no difficulty in completing the work.

Mrs. Forster herself was scrupulously honest, religious, cleanly, and industrious, and she made her cottage such a picture of neatness and happiness within, while her husband employed all his leisure hours in beautifying and adorning it without, that it became a sight and a proverb in the country. Abraham Forster was by profession an ornamental

gardener; his wife took needlework, and made up caps and bonnets in a very pretty style for the ladies of the village; by these means they contrived to live in great comfort, and Mrs. Forster herself, in addition to her other labour, entirely superintended the education of her six children.

Fanny had one day been sent by her mother to Mrs. Saunders, a lady who resided at Ongar, to carry home a cap and a handkerchief which her mother had finished for her, and when she returned she counted the money she had received into her mother's hand, for Mrs. Saunders was one of those kind considerate people that always paid for work the moment it was done; she never found fault with a view to delaying the payment, which is a very common practice with some people, ruinous to the poor, and disgraceful to those who do it. A poor man can no more bear to be disappointed in the punctual payment of his earnings, than a rich man could to be put off in the receipt of his dividends at the bank; the latter, indeed, might have resources to fly to, but what is the poor man or the poor widow to do when she has been working all the week for ten

shillings, and told of a Saturday night "to call again;" she has all Sunday to go without her little supplies of tea and sugar, and soap to begin her washing on Monday morning, to say nothing of the time (which is money) lost in going again to ask for what is her due; it is therefore one of the most cruel and disgraceful acts in the world to keep the hire from the labourer, and a curse is therefore denounced in Scripture against the practice. St. James v. 4. "Behold the hire of the labourer is kept back."

As soon as Mrs. Forster received the money from her child, she discovered that there was three shillings too much, she therefore sent Fanny back with it directly, and bade her make haste, for fear Mrs. Saunders should be the first to discover the mistake. The child cheerfully obeyed her mother, although she was very tired, for she never thought she could do enough for her, so away she went, and was shewn into Mrs. Saunders' parlour, when she explained to that lady the cause of her return, and gave her back the three shillings. Mrs. Saunders was so much pleased with her artless manner, and the honesty of the mother, that she pre-

sented her with the whole sum as a gift, and told her to go home and lay it by until she might want it. Fanny made a very pretty acknowledgment to her kind employer and retired, and soon tripped home quite delighted with the result of her errand.

There was something in the manner of this little girl which was irresistibly taking; she was so civil and obliging to every one, so candid, and at the same time so modest and diffident, she was so neat and cleanly in her person, that all who saw her were struck with her interesting appearance.

When she returned with the money to Mrs. Saunders, Sir Frederick Williamson, the same gentleman who at Mr. Thornton's request had received Tom Wilson into his service, happened to be present. He said nothing while the child was in the room, but as soon as she was gone he enquired her history from Mrs. Saunders. This lady informed him in every particular, which she was able to do, as her family, she said, had known Mr. Forster's for three generations; their name had been altered, it was formerly Forsher; they were supposed to be very well born, and it was even said that they once possessed

very good landed property in Leicestershire, but owing to some villany, they were cheated out of it, and obliged to leave that part of the country, and that Fanny's great grandfather had settled in the cottage where his descendants still resided.

The next day, Sir Frederick Williamson, who was known to every one in that part of Essex as a man of the highest integrity, called on Mrs. Forster and told her that his housekeeper, Mrs. Simpson, had long been looking out for a well disposed little girl, whom she might bring up to take her place, for as she was herself advancing in years, she was afraid that much inconvenience might ensue should any thing happen to her, unless the management of the house could be immediately transferred to some confidential person ; that he was willing and indeed anxious to have Fanny Forster instructed in the business under the eye of Mrs. Simpson, whom his own son looked upon as a mother, for indeed she had taken charge of him from the month in which Lady Williamson had died in her confinement. Sir Frederick farther informed her that she need be under no alarm as to her daughter associating

with the men servants, for in his house it was the practice that all the female servants took their meals with the housekeeper, and the men with the butler; that he had early in life seen the corruption and misconduct which familiar intercourse among the domestics in what is called the servants hall had produced; the expense was a little more it was true, but the advantage to the family, to the morals and quiet of the house, were so great, that it was amply repaid to him.

Mrs. Forster thanked Sir Frederick for his kind offer, but said she could not decide until she had consulted Abraham, for so she always called her worthy husband, and accordingly, as soon as the honest man returned home in the evening, she gave him an account of all that had passed. Forster knew Sir Frederick's character, and would entirely depend on his word; he had indeed, he said, but one objection, "and that, my dear Molly, is this, when I am away from home my comfort and consolation is that you have got Fanny with you in case of any accident or misfortune; besides, she goes of errands for you, and assists in teaching and taking care of the younger children." Mary admitted

this to be true; "but you know," she replied, "that when you are away, God is still with me, and 'he will never leave me nor forsake me;' besides you know, Abraham, that our lambs will grow into sheep, and that sooner or later we must part from them, and this is not a common, every-day offer of a place, but a situation which promises a good provision for our dear child for life. I think we cannot answer to ourselves if we refuse it. Then you know there is our little Jane, she is in her eleventh year, and will, with the blessing of God, soon be very useful to me, and take dear Fanny's place." Here the good woman was quite overcome, and wept for some minutes, but dried up her tears before the children came in from their summer's evening amusement to take their suppers; after which Mrs. Forster read a chapter in the Bible, Fanny read the prayers, and then having seen the four little ones put comfortably to bed, she and Jane joined their parents in the parlour, when the plan for Fanny's future advancement in life was gradually opened to her. She wept at the thoughts of parting with her mother, but when she was reminded that the distance was only a mile from their dwelling, and that

Mrs. Simpson was the person who was to have charge of her, she became reconciled to her separation. The next day her father waited on Sir Frederick Williamson, and said that they accepted his kind offer with gratitude, and a short time after, Fanny, with her tidy box of clothes, all clean and well mended, went to her place.

Sir Frederick Williamson was a widower, sixty-five years of age, and Mrs. Simpson, his housekeeper, had lived with his wife as lady's maid long before her marriage, and continued with her to the day of her death, which, as we have before observed, took place one month after the birth of their only son, who was now in his twenty-third year, and at college, where he was about to take orders. Lady Williamson on her death-bed gave charge of the infant to her maid, and implored her husband never to dismiss her unless for misconduct, which she could not fancy would ever occur. The promise was given and religiously performed; Sir Frederick from that moment devoted himself to the care of his child, and never thought of a second marriage.

Fanny very soon became useful in the still-

room, and made every one her friend. All the servants in the house, both male and female, quite adored her; there was but one who did not partake of this feeling, and that was Tom Wilson, who took a dislike to her, and never omitted any opportunity of annoying her. Fanny bore it for a long time without making any complaint; but one day, as she was crossing the court-yard, and going into the garden to gather some currants for Mrs. Simpson, Tom set the dog at her. The animal threw her down and tore her frock, but did her no other hurt. The coachman, who happened to see the whole transaction, ran to the relief of the poor girl, whose screams alarmed the whole house, lifted her up, and brought her in his arms to Mrs. Simpson, to whom he related all that had happened. She informed her master, and Sir Frederick was so angry that he had nearly forgotten himself; he desired the coachman to give the mischievous boy a sound flogging with his whip; but Fanny begged that he would forgive him, and at her request he was pardoned with a severe reprimand, and assured that on the next offence he would lose his place.

Freed for a time from this annoyance,

Fanny went on very comfortably; but Sir Frederick, who, from Mrs. Simpson's favourable reports of the child had become exceedingly attached to her, had determined to give her a better education than she could obtain in the still-room; he therefore sent her to a school not far distant, where he could frequently see and hear of her welfare, and she only returned home at her regular periods of vacation. Mrs. Simpson cautioned her kind master that he was bringing the girl up above her situation and rank in life, that it might not be for her happiness, but, on the contrary, by giving her a taste for dress and "parlour company," as she called it, might lead to the most fatal results; she even hinted at the possibility of her young master falling in love with her. These sensible observations of the honest housekeeper had some weight with Sir Frederick, and for a moment he was silent; then recovering himself, he said, "I know not, Mary, how it is, but this child has taken such a hold on my fancy, that I feel as if I could not resist treating her as if she really was my own—" *she must go to school.*" These words were uttered with a degree of earnestness and energy that she had never before observed in

her master ; and although she did not afterwards name the subject, she entertained the most serious apprehensions that his mind was on the wane.

The fears of the poor woman were, however, groundless, her kind-hearted master was in the full enjoyment of all his faculties, and possessing all which this world could give as to riches, he thoroughly despised them unless they were employed in doing good. He was what is called an optimist, in the clearest and most enlightened sense of the word ; he considered that as long as we did our duty and relied upon our Maker, that all the events which happened to us were for our advantage, and in this opinion I entirely concur, let fools or sceptics say what they will to the contrary, because nothing can happen to a good man but by the appointment of God alone, as in the instances of Noah, Job, and Daniel.

At the age of sixteen, Fanny returned from school, a very fine girl, much improved and much admired ; and although the scholars knew her birth and parentage, and where she resided, yet they never once taunted her with it, but on the contrary, all were glad to be on the best terms with her. She was ready to

assist them with her advice in any difficulty ; she would show them how to do their sums ; set their work in order for them ; was always making them little presents of some trifling thing or other, which her allowance of pocket-money from Sir Frederick enabled her to procure, and was in fact a general favourite. When she returned at the summer holidays, she found her friend Mrs. Simpson confined to her room, and quite incapable of attending to the affairs of the house ; she, of course, as her master had directed, immediately took charge, and so kindly and effectually did she perform the duty, that the servants needed no admonition to obey, but flew to execute her orders.

About this time Frederick Williamson returned from Oxford for the long vacation, and for the first time was much struck with the appearance of this attractive young woman managing the house. He had indeed seen her before, and knew that she was educated at his father's expense ; but now, her figure and appearance, which were remarkably attractive, excited a suspicion in his mind not at all creditable to his father's character. He feared that she was either to be his step-

mother, or something worse; for although this young man was of irreproachable character, yet his college education had made him acquainted with the wickedness of the world. He quickly made known his uneasiness to his dear Mary Simpson, whom he treated on all occasions with the utmost confidence: he loved her as a parent, and she considered him her own child. The good housekeeper owned that she had had her fears at one time, but that since Fanny's personal attractions had ripened to what they now were, her master had been more cold and reserved to her, never speaking to her except in the presence of herself, or perhaps the butler, and nothing, she said, could be more correct than the girl's conduct had ever been; besides, she added, I think I know my master's character, after being six-and-twenty years in his service, and I am sure you will do him a great injustice if you harbour one unworthy thought of him.

With all these assurances of his friend, Frederick's mind was not at ease, nor could he satisfactorily account for this poor girl having an education to all appearance so much above her condition in life. Surely, said he, music and dancing, and French and

drawing, and geography and history, are not necessary accomplishments for the still-room.

Between the Christmas and Midsummer vacation, Tom Wilson had so misbehaved, that his master, after having tried every means to reclaim him, was compelled to send him away. The boy took his wages and his clothes, and with a light and thankless heart turned his back on his kind master, without regret and without reflection.

Frederick had never missed him, or indeed never thought of him, but met him one day in his walk. The youth touched his hat to his young master, and Frederick stopped him, spoke kindly to him, asked him some questions, and among others, why he had quitted his situation. The boy replied, that he could not stay in a place which was governed by "*Mrs. Fanny Forster*:" she ruled the house as she pleased; no one dare to say a word to her; even *Mrs. Simpson*, the housekeeper, was afraid of her, "cause every body knowed that master was going to marry her; some people go so far as to say they are married, and if they are not, they ought to be. I seed him a hugging and a kissing on her one day as I passed before the drawing-room windows,

when I was at work on the lawn ;" so saying he ran away. Nor could Frederick ever get a sight of him again, until a very serious affair had taken place. He, however, kept his own counsel, and never mentioned what he had heard even to Mrs. Simpson. For a short interval he passed some sleepless nights, scarcely partook of a meal with his father, afraid to speak, yet miserable in silence.

One afternoon a gipsy lad came to the gate with a note ; it was written in a good school-boy's hand, and was addressed to " Fanny Forster, at Sir Frederick Williamson's." Fanny eagerly opened the note, and read, that the lines were written by her father's direction, to say that he had been at work in Squire Thomas's grounds, when a bull ran at him, tossed him, and broke his leg and two of his ribs, and that he was then in bed at the squire's, and hoped she would come to him immediately, but not on any account to let her mother know of it, till she herself should carry the news. The boy who left this note instantly disappeared. Sir Frederick and his son were both from home, and the unhappy girl, without consulting Mr. Calcott, the butler, determined to set off in-

stantly on foot to see her poor father. Mrs. Simpson, who was ill in bed, she thought would only be made worse by giving her any part of this sad story. So away she went, all alone, and, as she was strong and active, she reached the house, though quite out of breath, in little more than an hour: as soon as she was seated, the servants, who all knew her, came eagerly round to ask what had occasioned her to come, when, bursting into tears, she said, "Oh, where is my dear father, and how is he, and what does the doctor say of him? *pray, pray* take me to him directly." They all said they knew nothing about her father being ill, or that any thing was the matter with him. He had been there at work that morning in the flower-garden and greenhouse, but had gone away at four o'clock. Fanny then shewed them the note she had received, and they all agreed it must have been some mischievous person, who had written it out of spite. This she supposed must have been the case, but never once suspected who it could be, or how she could have incurred any one's anger. Having taken a cup of tea, she set out to return to her residence, and, as it was a beautiful evening, no one

ever thought of offering to go with her. She had not proceeded more than a mile and a half from Squire Thomas's house, when she was suddenly caught hold of behind by an unseen hand, and pulled down on her back. She screamed and struggled violently, and defended herself so well, that her assailant had no easy task to contend with her. She got her scissors from her pocket, and contrived, with almost supernatural force, to stick them into the arm of the robber; but she must eventually have fallen a victim to his brutality, had she not been rescued by two gentlemen, who heard her screams, and flew to her assistance, shouting, at the same time, to frighten the villain, who, seeing he was discovered, fled through a gap in the hedge, but in such haste as to drop his hat, which he dared not wait to pick up; this was taken care of by the gentlemen, who found the poor victim had fainted as soon as she saw them coming to her relief.

The sun had just set, and the place they were in was lonely; it would have been no easy matter to have carried her, and they were at their wits' end what to do, when they heard a carriage coming. This proved to be

that of Sir Frederick Williamson and his son, with the coachman and a footman, who had come on purpose to look for Fanny, and to bring her home ; for on their return to their house that afternoon, and hearing of the note, they felt convinced it must have been a forgery for some very bad purpose, as they had seen Abraham Forster at work in his own garden at half-past six, full two hours after Fanny had received the message. So without taking the horses from the carriage, they turned round, and drove to Squire Thomas's. On coming to the spot, the two gentlemen, who happened to be well known to the Williamsons, gave them an account of the adventure, first of all handing the young woman into the carriage, without knowing that she belonged to their family. As no time was to be lost in carrying her home, very little more was said. The hat of the ruffian was put into the carriage, and the kind deliverers were requested to call at the house the following day. The party drove home as fast as poor Fanny's feeble state would allow. She was quickly conveyed to her apartment, and put to bed ; a raging fever ensued, delirium succeeded, and the most serious appre-

hensions were entertained for her life. Mrs. Simpson was inconsolable. The whole family wore the face of mourning, and neither Sir Frederick or his son concealed their alarm and anxiety from each other. The doctor declared that she laboured under such dreadful excitement, that he much feared, even if he saved her life, that her reason would not return. Forster and his wife were both sent for, and every attention which affection could bestow, or money procure, was lavished upon her. After three weeks of care and anxiety, the poor girl began to show signs of recovery, both in body and mind ; she only remembered a violent twitch, not seeing the person who gave it, which she believed broke her necklace, and by that means she had lost a small golden locket, which her great aunt had presented her with, and which she was told might one day be of value to her ; as she said this she wept bitterly, not only for the loss of the locket, but because she dearly loved her aunt Bella, as she always used to call her.

They were here interrupted by the doctor, who gently chid them for allowing her to talk, and especially on the painful subject which had caused her illness ; her recovery, he

said, would be retarded, if not prevented, if they did not keep her as quiet as possible : and it was full six weeks before he would allow her deposition to be taken.

When the day arrived which had been appointed by the magistrates for this purpose, they assembled at Sir Frederick's house, and the two gentlemen who had been the means of saving the poor girl from dishonour, if not from death, appeared, and gave their evidence. The hat which they had picked up was produced. They swore that it was the same which they had found near the poor girl as she lay on the ground ; they knew it by a piece being cut or worn out of the brim, and by a hole in the crown. This hat was at once declared by the coachman to have belonged to Tom Wilson, he had seen him wear it a day or two before the event happened. The magistrate issued his warrant for this youth's apprehension, but he was nowhere to be found, nor had he been seen since the 1st of July, when he was known to have been at work at Mr. Thomas's ; while this examination was going on, a very material witness was brought in by the butler, who having been on some business at Lord Petre's at Warley Com-

mon, met the very boy who had brought the note to Fanny. This lad, who was a gypsey, about 14 years of age, said, that a young man had given him the note to carry to Squire Williamson's ; that he stood at a distance and watched him, and saw him deliver it at the gate, and afterwards gave him a penny and three apples for his trouble. He was asked if he knew the young man. He said he did not know his name, but he knew he had worked in Sir Frederick Williamson's stables, having seen him there often. The magistrate asked what sort of a hat he had on. The boy replied, that his hat was much worn, and that he remembered there was a piece out of the brim : when shewed the hat he declared that that was the hat the young man wore. The boy was immediately committed to Chelmsford gaol, as an accessory before the fact, and every means employed to find Wilson, and bring him to justice.

In the course of a week Sir Frederick Williamson received a letter from his old friend, Mr. Thornton, the clergyman, from whom he had first received the boy, Thomas Wilson. The letter stated that he had just discovered, by mere accident, that the poor

lad had been seen near the late residence of his father; that he was begging in the village, and was recognized, but denied that he was Thomas Wilson. He was, however, secured, and brought before him, (Mr. Thornton being a magistrate,) that he had immediately recognized him, although the youth at first obstinately denied all knowledge of him or the village, but on questioning him very closely he had been obliged to confess that he had been dismissed from his (Sir Frederick Williamson's) service, owing to a young woman who had a spite against him. That he found he could not earn his bread in that country, so he had begged his way down to Leicestershire, where he remembered that his parents once lived, and was in hopes he might have found some work. He had also, said Mr. Thornton, an ugly wound in his left arm, above the elbow, which, without great care, might injure the artery, and cause the loss of his limb; and he concluded his letter by saying, that he was safely lodged in the workhouse, and would be taken proper care of, and, when well, would be sent to work. Sir Frederick forwarded this letter to the committing magistrate, who immediately sent down a consta-

ble, with an order to bring him up to Chelmsford gaol. The constable was also furnished with a letter from Sir Frederick Williamson to Mr. Thornton, thanking him for his communication, and stating a few facts relative to Tom Wilson, which induced the benevolent clergyman to accompany the constable and the prisoner back to Chelmsford.

During this interval the mind of Frederick Williamson had been on the rack. He had seen so much of Fanny, had conversed with her, found her so sensible, so well-informed, so amiable and compassionate, and withal so lovely, that he began to feel something very like love towards her. He was, however, restrained from committing himself to any engagement or offer, by two very serious considerations. The first was, the doubts he entertained as to the purity of her character, after the aspersion of Tom Wilson; and the second was, that admitting what Wilson said was false, which he really thought it was, had his father any mind to her himself as his wife? In which case, though he had no wish to supplant his parent, yet he could not help shuddering at the disgrace such a step might bring upon him. The trial at Chelms-

ford, which he knew would take place shortly, would probably settle these points, and Frederick had philosophy and patience enough to await the result. Mr. Thornton had reached the residence of Sir Frederick, and staid with him until the trial was concluded, for he had reason to think it might go hard with poor Wilson, and he thought if he could save his life, and be the means of bringing him to a proper sense of his guilt, it would be an act of duty as well as charity.

When the trial took place, the court was crowded to excess. The whole of Sir Frederick's family, together with Fanny and Mr. Thornton, were among the first in court. Abraham Forster and his wife were also present; and the cause and the party excited an unusual degree of interest in the neighbourhood.

When Tom Wilson was brought into court, Fanny betrayed the strongest emotions, and was with difficulty prevented from swooning. She was the first witness called, and her deposition was to the effect stated before. As she had been the subject of conversation round the country for a long time past, there was much curiosity to see her; her figure was tall, and well shaped; her face was regular,

and might be called lovely, but for the recent affair, which had given her countenance a melancholy cast ; her attire was in the highest degree neat, but no ways gaudy ; her hair was combed smoothly down on each side of her face ; she wore a pretty straw bonnet, tied under her chin with a light blue ribbon ; a spotted cotton gown ; a white muslin handkerchief concealed her neck and throat, and her general appearance was such as to excite an indescribable interest.

She trembled very much when desired to take her glove off, in order to be sworn, and she did it with such a becoming modesty and diffidence, and shewed such a beautiful white hand, that the very judge himself, as well as the jury and the court, could not help admiring it. Having taken the oath required of her, she was desired to look at the prisoner at the bar, and to say whether she knew him. She looked timidly at him, and said, she knew him very well, and that his name was Thomas Wilson. On being asked whether she could say, upon her oath, that he was the person who had assaulted her on the 1st of July, she replied, that she could not, as she never saw the person who attacked her, he

having kept his hand over her eyes while he held her down. It was thought here that the whole evidence would have failed, and that the prisoner must have been acquitted, but Sir Frederick Williamson's counsel called Mr. Hall to give his evidence. Mr. Hall stated, that as he was on the road to Ongar, with his friend, Mr. Croft, on the evening of the 1st of July, they heard, not far from them, a violent scream of "murder," and "help, for God's sake." They both ran as fast as they could, calling out, at the same time, that they were coming, and saw a person, whom he thought was the prisoner, run away, and scramble through a hedge, in doing which he left his hat behind him; he picked it up, and now produced it in court. Mr. Croft deposed to the same effect. Mrs. Simpson said, that when taking off her dress on the same night, she discovered marks of blood on her gown, at the right side, and that there was a scratch, or mark of some violence, on the fore part of her throat, as if done by a small line; she had also discovered that the points of her scissors, which hung at her right side by a ribbon, were deeply tinged with blood, about an inch high. Fanny was asked if she

could account for this. She said, it had just occurred to her, and she did not recollect it before, that she must have stuck the scissors into some part of the robber; but her memory was very imperfect, and she could not say that she could swear she did it, but she thought she did. She was asked if she could account for the marks round her throat? She replied, that when she went to Squire Thomas's, to look after her father, she had a small gold locket, suspended round her neck by a hair necklace; that she had never seen it since, and she thinks it must have been twitched, or pulled away from her by the person who first took hold of her; she knew nothing more. The learned counsel next called the constable, who went down with his warrant to apprehend Wilson. This man, after being sworn, produced a hair necklace and locket, which he found on the person of the prisoner, and which had been broken, as if by considerable violence, for it was very strong. As soon as Fanny saw the well-known trinket, her eyes sparkled with delight. She was asked if it was hers, and she eagerly replied, that it was; that the name of her great aunt was engraved within it, "Arabella

Forsher, Cherry Farm, Leicestershire." Good heavens, exclaimed Mr. Thornton, can it be possible. The next witness called, was the gypsy boy, George Thompson. He swore, that on a certain day last summer, but he could not say what day, he met the prisoner, who said, he would give him a penny and three apples if he would deliver a note for him at Squire Williamson's, and that he (the prisoner) watched him to see that he delivered it, as he had engaged to do ; after which he gave him his reward, as he had promised. He was asked, if he could remember what sort of a hat the prisoner had on ? He said, it was a good deal worn, and had a large piece out of the brim. The hat was then produced, and he swore to its being the one the prisoner had on, on the day in question. The prisoner's right arm was then stripped, and the cicatrized wound compared with the scissors, and found to answer exactly. Here the case for the prosecution closed, and the poor unhappy youth was called upon for his defence.

The prisoner then stood forth, and thus addressed the Judge and Jury : " My lord and gentlemen, you have given yourselves a

great deal of trouble about a poor worthless outcast of society, which I own to you I am. I admit all that is alleged against me; it is true, and much more. I intended to rob and murder the young woman; I tried to ruin her character by telling lies of her. Yes, gentlemen, I told Master Frederick that I saw his father hug and kiss her, but it is all as false as God is true. I always hated her because every body talked of her being so good: I hated all good people. By good people I mean such as pray to God and read the Bible, and try to do good to their neighbours. I was always told, when I was a child in my father's kitchen and stables, where I was brought up, that such people were not to be kept company with, that they were hypocrites, and the enemies of all hearty honest fellows. I was told religion was all a cheat, and they that talked the most about it were the least to be depended on. I went from my father's kitchen at Iron Park Hall, to the workhouse at —, and there I completed all my wickedness by being nearly a whole year with the worst of people. I saw my two little brothers die in the hospital, and I wish I had died with them, for

I was then left alone in the world. I never knew there was a God who took care of the orphan; I never was told it, I never heard of it; how then could I know it? All I know now is what I have learnt from Mr. Thornton since I was apprehended: he has been with me most constantly; he has shewn me the wickedness of my ways; he has made me sensible that I was hurrying to everlasting destruction; but I *have* repented, I *do* repent. I deny nothing of which I am accused. I do not plead for my life; I know it is forfeited; I have no wish to live; I have no friend in the world, and I care not how soon my days are ended. Had I been looked after when a child, as that young woman has, I should not have stood before you, my lord and gentlemen, as I now do, a poor, humble, penitent thief. I now only beg Mr. Thornton to speak a few words in confirmation of what I have said."

Mr. Thornton here got up and addressed the Judge and the Jury in the following manner;

"My lord and gentlemen, every word which this unfortunate young man has spoken is literally true. I knew his grand-

father well, and have often heard of his great grandfather, who owned all the vast estate of Iron Park Hall, in Leicestershire, to which, by means to which I shall not advert, he soon added the estate of Cherry Hill, which his own property enclosed in a kind of semicircle. That beautiful farm and mansion was owned by Mr. Abraham Forsher, the great grandfather of the prosecutrix, and it is only by the golden locket just produced that I have made the discovery. Mr. Forsher, by the persecutions and lawsuits which old Mr. Wilson, the great grandfather of this youth, carried on, was nearly ruined, and finally driven out of the county. But the estate thus acquired and augmented never went right, and I remember a couplet constantly repeated in our village to this day, when we look at the ruinous condition of that property,

‘ The land that’s wet with orphans’ tears,
Will never thrive for scores of years.’

Mr. Abraham Forsher quitted the country with his wife, two sons, and five daughters. I never knew what became of them till now, but I have a recollection of hearing my father say that they were very excellent people,

that they were very ill used, and robbed of their property, and that they finally settled in Essex. Mr. Wilson's family went headlong to ruin, and this poor boy was driven to the workhouse. To conclude, my lord and gentlemen, I humbly recommend this neglected, friendless youth to your merciful consideration. His faults are not all his own ; and consider what your advantages in life have been, compared to his, and what you might have been, had you been thus neglected."

The address of the prisoner and that of Mr. Thornton produced a very deep impression on the Court ; there was not a dry eye while the prisoner was speaking : poor Fanny wept bitterly, and when Mr. Thornton begged the mercy of the Judge, she held up her white hands clasped together, in a supplicating manner, but could not speak : her silent eloquence was nevertheless very powerful, and had great weight.

The Jury, after ten minutes consultation, brought in a verdict of guilty, but strongly recommended the prisoner to mercy. The Judge assured them their recommendation should be attended to, but as they had pronounced him guilty of a capital offence, he

must pass on him the awful sentence of the law. This he did in a manner which deeply affected the Court and all present. Fanny and her mother were inconsolable; so was Mrs. Simpson. All hurried away from the melancholy scene, and the prisoner was taken back to his cell, where he was constantly attended by the good Mr. Thornton, who had wrought such a wonderful change in his mind that he was no longer the same person, and there was every reason to hope that he would entirely and thoroughly reform, could he be permitted to remain with those who would study to improve him.

Previously to his intended removal from Chelmsford jail, he told Mr. Thornton that he had one great favour to beg of him, and which he hoped he would not refuse; it was, that he might see Fanny Forsher, with her father and mother, and Sir Frederick Williamson, and Master Frederick, before he left the world. The request was cheerfully and readily complied with; and in order to accommodate so large and so respectable a party, the jailer very kindly removed his unhappy captive from his dismal cell into a handsome apartment, where they were all

seated. When Fanny saw Tom Wilson, whom she had so long known as a fellow-servant, now standing before her loaded with chains, she was quite in despair, she burst into an agony of grief, and implored Sir Frederick Williamson and Mr. Thornton to use their endeavours to obtain his pardon; "for," she added, "I am the innocent cause of his misfortune, and if he should suffer death here, or die in a foreign land, with these disgraceful chains upon him, I shall never know a happy hour, and I shall always think his blood will be on my head."

Mr. Thornton tried to console her; he said he had some faint hopes of his ultimate release, but he must first of all make himself certain of his perfect repentance and thorough reformation, "of which," said he, "if it pleases God to prolong his life and mine, I have very little doubt. But we must not be too sanguine; we must do our duty, and leave the issue to Him that disposeth all things for the best. You, it is true, are the innocent cause of his being here; you may be also the instrument of his salvation."

Wilson listened to this conversation with the greatest attention; then addressing him-

self to Sir Frederick, he said, "Sir, may I hope for your forgiveness; I am sensible how shameful my conduct has been ever since you kindly received me under your roof." "Say not a word more," said his master, greatly affected, and holding out his hand to the wretched convict; "say no more; I have forgotten and forgiven every thing." He next addressed himself to Fanny, observing, that after he had vilely and shamefully attempted to blast her innocent character, he had meditated to rob and murder her, for which purpose he gave a poor boy from a day-school two-pence to write that note, which led her to Mr. Thomas's; but thanks be to God, my plans have all failed, and I trust, through his mercy, and the kindness of my friend, Mr. Thornton, that I am brought to a proper sense of my own guilt; but what a long life must it be to wipe it out. You will, I know, make some allowance for my unfortunate entrance into life, an orphan at twelve years of age, without any other education than what I gained among corrupt servants; and the last year, before I came to Sir Frederick's, was passed in the work-house, which, I believe, completed my ruin."

"That," said, Mr. Thornton, interrupting him, "was my fault; I lay the whole of your depravity, acquired in that sink of iniquity, to my own charge; it was I that sent you there, and I am now, and have been for months past, endeavouring to make amends, if possible, for that error; the truth is, I did not know and could not have conceived that the workhouse was half so wicked as I have since discovered it to be." While poor Tom Wilson was addressing himself to Fanny, and during Mr. Thornton's interruption, the convict fell on his knees before her, caught her hand, and kissed it fervently, and then begged pardon for his boldness. The rattling of his chains terrified the poor girl, and Mrs. Forsher dreaded the effects of this interview on her mind; but when she remembered that it was better to go to the house of mourning than to the house of joy, she derived comfort from it. They then all took their leave of him in the most affectionate manner, and as they were going out, he exclaimed, "Oh! had Mrs. Forsher been my mother, I should never have been here." Mr. Thornton alone of all the party remained with the unhappy youth, accompanied him

back to his cell, and was unremitting in that course of instruction which had already produced fruits beyond his most sanguine expectation. Tom learned to read his Bible with surprising quickness, and his progress in writing was equally great. What might he not have been had he fallen earlier into good hands?

While they were on their way back to their residence, Mr. Thornton told Sir Frederick that the estate of Iron Park Hall, together with Cherry Hill Farm, were coming to the hammer, but that owing to defective title, he thought they would not fetch a great deal, a deed of transfer from one purchaser to another being wanted for Cherry Hill, and so intimately connected with Iron Park as to render the title of both defective in the event of a sale. Sir Frederick enquired what the property might be worth in case of a good title being procured? Mr. Thornton replied, between thirty and forty thousand pounds, including the advowson of the living, of which he was the incumbent; and as he was in his 75th year, he did not think he should long stand in the way of a purchaser. Forsher, who heard this conversation, said he thought

he could supply the document required : "then you may put ten thousand pounds in your pocket by it," said the worthy curate. Sir Frederick said that he had a sum of money by him, which being a part of his late wife's marriage portion, he was empowered to lay out as he pleased ; he thought, therefore, that if the purchase could be made on advantageous terms, giving Forsher a proper remuneration for his deeds, that he would do it. Forsher offered the documents gratuitously to Sir Frederick, but the latter declined taking them on such terms. Mr. Thornton said the sale would take place in about three months from that period, and if Sir Frederick had any intention of becoming a purchaser, he would readily undertake to manage the affair for him by means of an honest solicitor and friend of his in that part of the country. Sir Frederick said he would consider of it, and asked Mr. Forsher, if he would object to place the deeds in his hand for a short period, to which the latter consented, and set off for his own house. Sir Frederick, his son, and Mr. Thornton went home to dinner.

After dinner, the conversation turned upon

the ruinous state of the Iron Park and Cherry Hill property; of the misfortune which had attended the Wilson family, and of the melancholy event which was likely to terminate the very last of their line; but among the interesting topics which occupied their attention was the history of the Forsher family, accidentally brought to light by the discovery of the locket. "I always had a sort of presentiment," said Sir Frederick, "that that family was of no mean or obscure origin, and that its true history would have been found out long ago, there can be no doubt, had not Forsher's modesty and diffidence kept him so much in the back ground. I shall now never regret having given his girl an education which will enable her to move in a sphere of life to which she seems to have been born."

While Sir Frederick made these observations, he carefully watched the countenance of his son, and perceived that the subject was by no means an indifferent one to him. Mr. Thornton informed his kind host that he was now on the eve of his departure for Leicestershire, having been so long absent from his flock, that but for the object he had had in

view nothing would have justified ; he added, that he made arrangements with a friend, in whom he could depend, to pay the most constant attention to poor Wilson during his confinement.

As Sir Frederick Williamson was not a man of any ceremony, and knew that Mr. Thornton had staid to the very latest moment, he did not greatly press him to remain ; but at their parting, he put a letter into his hand, which he requested he would not open until he arrived at his own residence.

A week had passed, and Fanny had not returned from her visit ; Frederick was very frequently, and for hours together, in Mrs. Simpson's sitting-room, and expressed so much interest in the return of her young assistant, that the good woman told him she felt seriously alarmed, lest he should have formed an attachment which she was certain would not meet with his father's approbation, and would end in his misery. He replied, that he was aware of his father's disapprobation, but he feared his motives were more selfish than otherwise. Mrs. Simpson endeavoured to combat this opinion, but finding her efforts in vain, resolved to communicate her thoughts to

her master, which she did the next morning ; at the same time, while she strongly advocated the cause of her dear Frederick, she reminded him that this was no more than she had herself foreseen and foretold, as he must well remember. " Very true," said Sir Frederick, " I am the cause of all the mischief, if there be any, and, as that is the case, I shall bear the consequences."

Frederick was still impatient for Fanny's return, but she delayed coming, under the pretence or in reality of being ill. He went to her father's house, but could not see her, and he returned in a very dejected state of mind, not unobserved by his father.

Sir Frederick Williamson now began to think it high time that Fanny should return to her place, as she had been absent a full fortnight, and desired Mrs. Simpson to signify his wishes to her. Fanny in consequence repaired to her duty, but was no longer the blooming, beautiful girl she had appeared before the fatal 1st of July. Sir Frederick attributed this alteration in her looks to her hopeless attachment to his son, while the latter was induced to lay the whole to the poor girl's love for his father : both were

wrong, yet neither dared to ask an explanation of her or of each other. Frederick was forced to return to Oxford to take his degree, and near four months elapsed before he saw her again. During his absence, Sir Frederick ventured to ask her the cause of her dejected appearance, and whether it was in his power to afford her relief. She replied, that since the condemnation of poor Tom Wilson, she had not known peace night or day; and that the taking leave of him in the prison had rendered her completely miserable. Sir Frederick recollected Tom's falling on his knees before her, and kissing her hand, and he concluded that Frederick had a rival in the person of the unhappy young convict, whose pardon she had so silently, yet emphatically pleaded in the court. Here was another error. Fanny was supposed to have three candidates for her hand, when she never thought of either of them. Sir Frederick being what is called a straight-forward, sensible man, was determined to sift the affair to the bottom, and for this purpose entered into an explanation with her, but in so kind and parental a manner, that she was quite overcome. He asked tenderly whether she had

fixed her affections on an object so unworthy of her as young Wilson. She assured him, in the most solemn manner, that nothing was farther from her thoughts. Then, Fanny, said her master, it is Frederick who is the object of your love. "Sir," said Fanny, "you wrong me; I should consider myself the most ungrateful of creatures, if I could ever have formed such a thought; and I entreat you to allow me to return immediately to my father's house, where I shall be of so much use in assisting my dear mother in the education of my little brothers and sisters. Moreover, Sir, (said she,) I solemnly pledge myself never to listen to any proposal, come from whom it may, without your fullest approbation." Sir Frederick was so satisfied with the candour and veracity of the poor girl, who had never been once detected in an untruth, that he begged her once more only to tell him if there was any thing which could be done to relieve her mind, and she nobly replied, "Yes, the full and free pardon of Thomas Wilson. If he could obtain that, she should be happy; without it, never." "Excellent girl!" said her master; "we will try what can be done. In the mean time, as I feel

quite certain that you will be more at ease with your mother than you can be here, I request you will return to her. Attend to the education of your little brothers and sisters, and I will do my endeavours to forward your wishes."

Sir Frederick's motive for sending Fanny home was threefold. The first was to dissipate any alarm Frederick might have had as to her being intended for his step-mother; secondly, that her mind might be diverted by the society of those she loved; and thirdly, that he might be quite at liberty to work out his own plans for her good, and that of her family.

He lost no time in writing to the Judge who had tried Tom Wilson, interceding in the strongest manner for his pardon, stated his conduct since he had been in prison at Chelmsford, under suspended sentence of death, and so effectually pleaded in extenuation of the poor youth's crime, that he received an answer which gave him hopes. These he, however, concealed from Fanny, for fear of ultimate disappointment.

The 25th of June had now arrived. Fre-

derick had taken deacon's orders, and returned from Oxford for the long vacation. He was pleased, rather than otherwise, to find Fanny was at her father's house, as it convinced him at once that Sir Frederick was not his rival; and he consulted with Mrs. Simpson what was the best thing to be done. Having stated her fears to her master, and perceiving that he was not averse to such an union, she advised an open avowal of his love for Fanny to his own father in the first instance, and having obtained his permission, then to the girl herself. This advice was followed. Sir Frederick Williamson affected some surprise, and asked his son if he was aware of the consequence of marrying a girl without a farthing of fortune? Frederick replied, that he knew his father's kindness and liberality, which he had never abused: he had never drawn for his full allowance from Oxford; he had not left a shilling behind him unpaid; and he was certain whatever he intended to allow him or to leave him, would be fully equal to supply his utmost wants. "But," said the old gentleman, with a benignant and con-

senting smile, "suppose I give my consent, are you quite sure you shall be accepted? are you convinced you have no rival?" "To tell you the truth, Sir," said Frederick, good-humouredly, "I never thought of any rival but yourself, and now I find you have resigned the field, I think I am certain." "Well, be it so, Frederick; but I have my suspicions." This was said more with a view to try his son's patience, and a little *espèglerie* on the part of the father, than from any conviction of the fact.

This conversation was soon put an end to by Frederick's running down to Rose Cottage, where he very shortly made known the object of his coming to Mrs. Forsher alone, and requested her permission to break it to Fanny. "Provided you have your father's leave to name it at all," said Mrs. Forsher, "I can have no objection." Frederick assured her, on his word of honour, he had his father's full approbation, and she consented. Fanny was in the garden, amusing her little brothers and sisters; when Frederick approached her she dropped a courtesy, and was running away, but he begged her to stop,

as he had something to say to her which he hoped she would not object to hear. She blushed deeply and trembled very much; and Frederick, knowing suspense must be painful to a young creature like her, began without further preface to tell his errand. "Sir," said Fanny, "you do me too great an honour; I am a poor girl in a humble rank of life; my ambition never led me to aspire to the rank of a gentlewoman, and if it were otherwise, I cannot and never will think of changing my condition until the unfortunate Tom Wilson is pardoned and released from the dungeon to which my unfortunate evidence has consigned him."

"My father was right," said Frederick to himself; "I have a rival, and that rival a convict in chains, under sentence of death. What strange beings women are!" Feeling himself, as he thought, repulsed in his suit, he took his leave, and returned to his father, to whom he related faithfully all that had passed. Sir Frederick was amused at his son's disappointment and unreasonable conclusion, and pretended to rally him on his own superior sagacity, saying that he warned

him of what he might expect. Finding, however, at last, that Frederick was deeply cut by the repulse, he gave him consolation, by assuring him that he had quite mistaken Fanny's meaning: all she wanted was to have her mind relieved from the weight which oppressed it by the sentence on the unhappy youth; could his pardon once be secured, he would take upon him to say, that Fanny Forsher would be his for ever, if he wished it.

The following day a letter arrived from Mr. Thornton, announcing that the estate of Iron Park, including Cherry Hill Farm, had been knocked down to him, including its defective title, for £9,700: this sum comprised the reversion of the living of which he, Mr. Thornton, was then the incumbent. He added, that he had given security for the payment of the money, agreeably to the letter which he had entrusted to him for that purpose, and that the property was now ready to be put into the hands of his agent, whenever he might think proper to send one. Sir Frederick Williamson rang his bell, and desired George the groom to ride down to Forsher, and say that he wanted to speak to

him immediately on business, and that Mrs. Forsher and Fanny were to be prepared to come and dine with him at five o'clock, when the carriage would be sent for them. Forsher soon arrived, for the groom desired him to mount the horse, while he should walk home on foot. Sir Frederick Williamson explained to him, that from recent events which had taken place, he was satisfied that he had been unjustly deprived of his inheritance, that he had been enabled to purchase it by the bounty of the Almighty, and that he now had the pleasure to restore it to him fourfold, that he was sure he would make proper use of it, and he added, " Mr. Forsher, it is utterly impossible for any one to enjoy a greater degree of happiness in this world than I do now, in presenting you with the patrimonial estate of your worthy ancestors, to which I have added that of Iron Park, which surrounds it. Let me beg one favour of you, as the only condition with which I shall clog my gift, and that is, that you do not open your lips to any living being on the subject, until you have my permission to do so."

It is needless to say, what gratitude Mr. Forsher expressed for this unprecedented act

of generosity, or how quickly he promised to keep the secret.

At five o'clock the carriage brought Mrs. Forsher and her lovely daughter. Sir Frederick received them in the drawing-room, and said he must apologize for kidnapping them to dinner, but as he hoped they would see reasons for pardoning him hereafter, if not at the moment, he would trust to their mercy; they looked around, but did not see their father and husband. "Be not alarmed," said the good man, "we shall see him soon," and accordingly, when dinner was announced, Sir Frederick offered his arm to Mrs. Forsher, Frederick did the same to the blushing Fanny, and when they reached the dining-room, there was Forsher himself with a solicitor, who had been employed looking over some papers.

As soon as dinner was over, the cloth removed, and grace said, which in that house was never omitted either before or after meals, the butler whispered something to his master, who said aloud, "desire them to come in, and in a moment Mr. Thornton and Tom Wilson entered the room. Tom Wilson was seen kneeling down at his late master's feet. "Rise Tom,"

said his master, "I understand you"—a chair had been placed for Mr. Thornton, whom Sir Frederick had expected to dinner—"but if you will thank any one of this company, go to your friend Fanny, (who sat at Mr. Williamson's left hand.) Tom flew round to her, but his voice failed him, nor was there any thing more than dumb show for some minutes; Fanny wept bitterly, and gave him her beautiful hand, which he respectfully kissed and let go. At last, Mrs. Forsher, who had more nerve than the rest of the company, ventured to ask how this had been brought about? "for I am aware Sir," said she to Sir Frederick, "that your generosity is unbounded, but this young man's liberation, which my dear Fanny has prayed for this eight months, was not effected by gold." "You are right," Mrs. Forsher, "gold would not have done it, and woe to the land, where gold can purchase pardon for guilt. No, this young man's case was properly represented to his Majesty by the Judge who tried him, and it was supposed that he was a proper object for the royal prerogative of mercy; an order for his liberation came down on Tuesday morning, and although I would not allow him to quit the prison till this day, I

took care that his irons should be knocked off, and that he should be in the keeper's apartments, until his clothes were ready for him and until my definitive arrangements were made. They are now completed, Tom is going into Leicestershire to be under the care of his friend Mr. Thornton." "Oh, Sir," said Tom, "I am afraid it is all a dream, and that I shall wake up and find myself in my dungeon again." "No, Tom," said Mr. Thornton, "thanks be to God it is all real, but let us look about us and take care that we do not fall into any more errors." Tom was plainly and very neatly dressed in a suit of black, which Mr. Thornton had procured for him, and he now asked Mr. Williamson to let him retire under the care of the butler, who was directed to take charge of him; the poor fellow then withdrew, and was kindly received by his fellow servants in the hall, who congratulated him in a very hearty and sincere manner on his release, and still more on his fair prospects of an entire reform and change of manners. Tom sat down and shed a hearty flood of tears, after which he was greatly relieved, looked cheerful and healthy, and having had a good supper, went to his bed, perhaps

one of the happiest of the human race; so much do our chiefest pleasures flow from our heaviest afflictions.

After Tom Wilson and the butler had left the parlour, Mr. Williamson nodded to his lawyer, who, taking a bundle of papers from a drawer in which they had been deposited, read shortly in the abstract, an account of the sale by auction, and the purchase by Sir Frederick Williamson, of ———, of the whole property, called Iron Park, in the county of Leicestershire, together with the farm and mansion called Cherry Hill. The lawyer added, that the estate was sold for much less than its real value, in consequence of the loss of a certain deed, which he named; it was the transfer from one purchaser to another; this deed related to Iron Park, as well as to the Cherry Hill property. Mr. Forsher had supplied the document, and the lawyer assured Sir Frederick that every thing which was wanted was now complete, and that the purchase was secured. Mr. Forsher then explained that he remembered his father saying that he had in his possession an important document relating to Cherry Hill Farm, which never having been demanded before the sale,

his grandfather had refused to give up afterwards, and that if it ever came to the hammer it might be of great use to the family, who had been unfairly dispossessed of it; "and Sir," said he, addressing himself to Sir Frederick, "it is right that I should inform you that the origin of our family was purposely concealed by my grandfather, who did not wish it to be known that we had once moved in a higher sphere, as his sons were at that time bringing up to mechanical and agricultural employments."

Sir Frederick Williamson then taking the deed of the Leicestershire property in his hand, turned to Mrs. Forsher, and said, "my dear madam, as long as I have known you I have admired you, and esteemed your husband as one of the most upright men I ever met with in life. I have often wished to find out some occasion wherein I might render you an essential benefit, worthy of me to give and you to receive. You must therefore permit me now to present your husband with his ancient patrimonial estate, augmented by Iron Park and its domains."

This act of generosity was too much even for the strong nerves of Mrs. Forsher; she

attempted to thank her kind benefactor, but she had no words which could come near the warmth of her gratitude; and she only asked Sir Frederick, how she should ever be able to repay him? "That you can very easily do, and in one minute," said the worthy baronet. "Pray tell me how?" said Mrs. Forsher. "By giving me Fanny out and out," said Sir Frederick. Mrs. Forsher turned pale, she feared Sir Frederick wanted her for his wife, and dreaded the consequence of the disparity of age. Frederick scarcely knew which way to look, or what to think when his father made this abrupt, and, as he thought, strange request, and Forsher himself was almost stupified, at the apparent confusion and suspense of his wife, his daughter, and young Williamson. Sir Frederick seeing the joke was carried quite far enough, then plainly told them that he neither wanted their dear Fanny for a wife or a housekeeper; but that he might have the pleasure of making her his daughter-in-law, and mistress of the Essex estates before he died. "What say you, Frederick, are you still jealous of Tom Wilson or your father, or are you willing?" "Oh! Sir," said Frederick, "*you* know how willing I am, and how grateful

I shall ever be to you." "And what say you, Fanny?" said the baronet, "for I think your consent should have been first obtained." Fanny replied, by taking hold of Sir Frederick's hand and kissing it. "Then I am to consider that this pretty little white hand of yours is at my disposal, and that being the case, I shall give it to you, my dear Frederick, and as you never disobeyed me yet, I trust you will have no cause to do it now; take her, and may God make you as happy with her as she deserves to be;" so saying, he joined their hands, kissed his future daughter-in-law, and the company soon after separated and returned to the apartments which Mrs. Simpson had prepared for them.

On the following morning, the whole of this happy and virtuous family assembled at prayers in the breakfast-parlour: this was a duty which Sir Frederick had always held most sacred, and which was never omitted, unless illness prevented its performance. Frederick read a lesson out of the Old Testament, and afterwards offered such prayers as were adapted to their condition, after which they sat down to their cheerful repast. Tom Wilson attended at prayers with the servants; .

his appearance was that of a true and humble penitent, and Mr. Thornton observed, that there was every reason to think the poor lad would be ultimately quite reclaimed and saved.

Arrangements were immediately made for the marriage, which was fixed to take place on that day three weeks at the parish church. Mr. Thornton was invited, and earnestly requested by Fanny to perform the ceremony, to which he consented: the interval was employed in preparations, the whole village and surrounding neighbourhood were interested in the joyful event, for never was a man more beloved by his neighbours, than Sir Frederick; he was the kindest landlord, master, and friend they had ever known, and by his care and attention to the wants and morals of the poor, he had realized the happiness of the golden age within the circle of his influence. When the happy day arrived, the bride appeared in perfect health and beauty, arrayed in a very plain and simple dress, for Mrs. Forsher hated all external ornament. The villagers in their best Sunday attire lined the road from the house to the church, the foot-path to which lay through the park, the grate-

ful people poured forth prayers and implored blessings on the happy couple, and poor Tom Wilson distinguished himself by his zeal in the cause; he had employed himself for three days previously in gathering roses, and such other flowers as happened to be then in bloom—these he kept carefully in water until they were wanted; on this happy morning, Tom went round and distributed his nosegays in great profusion, to all the young women and girls whom he knew intended to witness the ceremony, and Fanny was deeply affected when she saw this grateful creature and his young associates strewing the road with the produce of his labour, collected from every garden within three miles of the village. Mr. Thornton declared, that he formed more hopes of Tom's thorough reformation from that one act, than he did from all his promises and professions. The ceremony being concluded, the party returned to the mansion to enjoy the festivities prepared for them. The villagers were regaled with kind hospitality, and the day was not disgraced by one act of intemperance. At six o'clock, Frederick and his bride drove off to London, where lodgings had been prepared for them; and

where the parents promised to join them in the course of a fortnight. Mr. Thornton on the following day took his leave, and accompanied by his young convert, returned to his duty in Leicestershire. Mr. and Mrs. Forsher having let Rose Cottage, proceeded in the same direction with their family, and soon took possession of the estate of their ancestors. Forsher, who had great taste and skill in rural architecture as well as ornamental gardening, prepared the mansion of Iron Park Hall for the reception of its new tenants, while Mrs. Forsher and her eldest unmarried daughter employed themselves in forming the village schools and establishing places for Sunday instruction. Tom Wilson was a volunteer in their service, and one of the most active and faithful of their partizans. Whenever he could be spared from the Vicarage, where he did the duty of footman to his kind master Mr. Thornton, he was sure to be at Cherry Hill Farm, offering his services to the family in the way of instruction to the children in the schools.

In the ensuing month of May, Sir Frederick, with his son and daughter-in-law, took up their abode at Cherry Hill, while Forsher

superintended the repair and beautifying of Iron Hall: when this was completed, the young couple, with Sir Frederick, removed into it for a season, after which they returned into Essex, Sir Frederick telling Mrs. Forsher, that he could not endure life without his son and Fanny, and that she must come into Essex and pay them a visit.

The reformation in Tom Wilson was so complete, that Mr. Forsher, who now took possession of Iron Park Hall, made him his gamekeeper, and presented him with a handsome cottage and an acre of ground, the whole freehold property; he ultimately acquired much more by honesty and industry, and the succeeding generation saw a union between his son and a grand-daughter of Mr. Forsher. Thus were the fortunes of these two families united by the sacred ties of marriage, after the ancestor of the one had nearly ruined that of the other, and after the amiable and lovely descendant of the injured party had been instrumental in saving the last scion of the enemy of her father's house from utter destruction.

A
SHORT APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC,
FOUNDED ON
THE FACTS ELICITED BY THE CHILDREN'S
FRIEND SOCIETY.

SEVEN years of experience having confirmed all our theories, and the public becoming daily more and more convinced of the expediency and beneficial effects of the Children's Friend Society, it has been deemed proper to lay the history of its early formation before its generous supporters, to shew the principles on which it is conducted, and the effects it is likely to produce on the welfare of the empire, provided it be extended to every part of it. Many of the parishes in and near the metropolis have released the captive, infant, and orphan poor from the moral and physical evils of a workhouse education. The workhouses for children may be considered as the nurseries for Newgate, and the handmaids to crime; in these

they obtain the elementary parts of that corrupt system which is completed in the prisons of the metropolis, the hulk at Chatham, and the horrible cells of the Westminster Prison and the Milbank Penitentiary. To these dismal abodes, children of a tender age are at this moment committed for trivial offences; by these means they are either so subdued in mind as to become idiots, or are ultimately added to the number of incorrigible offenders sent out to our penal colonies as adult felons, cursing the land of their nativity, "their hand against every man, and every man's hand against them."

If such be the fate of your infant poor, the fault is no longer ours, "see ye to it." We have provided a remedy, we have proved its efficacy, and its applicability to any country in the world; our whole system is at once simple in its composition and unerring in its effect; it is founded on the first principles of religion, of reason, and of revelation; with these it will go hand in hand, and whenever it departs from the path pointed out by these sure guides, it must be faulty and ought to be amended.

When the unhappy parents of these friend-

less orphans are on their death-bed, they turn their eyes to heaven and leave their offspring to your care. You have hitherto neglected the sacred charge, you have neglected your duty, you have consigned these innocent creatures to your workhouses, or you have allowed them to wander in your streets, and beg or steal for their subsistence. We have found them huddled together under the dry arches of Waterloo Bridge, or sleeping in the sheep-pens of Smithfield, or haunting old and ruinous houses, passing their nights in pig-sties and privies, and sometimes given up to the knife of the murderer and their bodies sold to the schools of anatomy. If they are found begging you commit them to prison, where you make them associate with thieves, and give them an adult felon for a schoolmaster or schoolmistress: what then can you expect but that these unhappy victims of your apathy and indifference should become adepts in those crimes for which your own folly, extravagance, and neglect, have provided them with universities and teachers? The felons of to-day are the neglected children of 1810; your prisons then only perpetuate crime. You see it, and yet

you will obstinately continue in the old beaten track, although you know that it leads to the ruin of the individual, as it will in time to that of the state. Your cruelty and injustice will assuredly bring its own punishment. You are passing children through the fire to Moloch. You know that severity has done nothing in the cause of reformation, and you see the effect of mildness, gentleness, and firmness, in reclaiming those whom some well-meaning people have pronounced past recovery. Little Daniel N. was placed under our care at the age of six years as an irreclaimable thief and liar. "Pray, madam," said I to the lady who complained of him, "what steps have you taken for his amendment?" "O Sir, he has been beaten, locked up, and had a log chained to his leg, and at last we sent a policeman to tell him that he should be tied up in a bag and thrown into the Thames." "So then," I replied, "to cure him of lying, you tell him a lie, and shew him how to commit murder with secrecy in order to prevent his becoming a thief!! Give me the child," I said, "you do not know how to train him." He has now been a year in our school at Hackney Wick, a cheerful

little fellow, daily improving, and has nothing to fear, provided he can be kept from the contamination of his corrupt and early associates ; he has never been beaten or chained to a log, or scarcely ever rebuked, and I have found means to compel his mother to contribute towards his support.

Faulty as was the mode adopted with this child, it is precisely the same as that which in effect is pursued by the state towards the little delinquents whom its negligence has, as it were, created and called into existence.

Instances to prove the ruin of children under the present system of prison discipline could be adduced in thousands, but it would be a waste of time. The floating Bastile, the Euryalus, at Chatham, with all her expensive establishment and cruel treatment, her iron cages for children, fœtid air, and obstructed day-light, have never yet reclaimed a culprit, but sent them out worse than they went in. Milbank Penitentiary has been nearly if not quite as unsuccessful ; why then continue the system when we can attain the object more effectually at a tenth part of the expense ? And the numbers of felons will increase in a double ratio to the population, if we do not interpose the

only barrier to such a frightful crisis, viz. the early training and education of the juvenile poor.

Deeply impressed with the necessity of a change, I began by addressing letters to the public through the medium of the Morning Post and Morning Herald, and to the gratuitous and generous assistance of the Editors of those papers am indebted for the first foundation of the Society; by their means I attracted the attention of a few benevolent men, who saw that my object was PREVENTION, not PUNISHMENT, to reclaim by gentleness, not severity; from that moment the number of our Subscribers rapidly increased. The Earl of Euston was one of our first Patrons, and our meetings were held at the British Coffee house, in Cockspur Street, from whence we removed to an office at 32, in Sackville Street, and in 1833, to Exeter Hall; from thence, about two years ago, we removed to Throgmorton Street, where our office is now, we hope, permanently fixed, through the kindness of John Francis Maubert, Esq. who has given us the use of the apartments. We commenced our first experiment at West Ham, in Essex, but here we met with difficulties which we could not

foresee and which it would be useless to relate. As soon as we had settled ourselves at Hackney Wick, our asylum took a prosperous turn, and when the Female branch, through the kindness and active exertions of Lady George Murray, and her daughter Miss Murray, had been set up at Chiswick, we gradually extended our connexions and increased our funds.

About sixty children have been sent to our asylums from the parish of St. Mary-le-bone, but not with parochial aid; previously to that, the streets of this parish were filled with begging children, the fruits of that wicked practice of giving money in the streets to those who are too idle to work; people who do this, however well-meaning and virtuous they are, may be assured that they are only the abettors of vice, of drunkenness, and blasphemy, and are the destroyers of those whom they mean to serve.

The principles on which our Schools are conducted, are based on the Holy Scriptures, from thence we derive moral training, and mental instruction.

The out door work for the boys is essentially agricultural, they are also employed

as carpenters, bricklayers, shoemakers, and tailors.

The girls are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic, sewing, knitting, the duties of the dairy, and the nursery.

In both the Schools, a love of order, decency, propriety of conduct, cleanliness, and mutual kindness are carefully inculcated. The early propensity to vice, is counteracted by constant inspection, occupation, and rational amusement, by which means, a new and captivating application is given to the powers, both of body and mind.

The child who claims our protection is assured that his faults are forgotten and forgiven, that a new character is to be made, and no reproaches are to be cast on it for the past.

They are warned against the offence of lying, and are taught that whenever they have done wrong, or met with an accident, to make it immediately known to a superior, by whom they are advised and admonished ; by acting in this fair and candid manner, they are relieved from the dread of punishment, the child becomes cheerful, animated, and happy, and it improves in appearance as well as in every power of body and mind ; by kind treatment

we have reclaimed many who had set at defiance every terror of the law and of the civil magistrate.

As idleness is not permitted during the hours assigned to labour or instruction, those who do not choose to learn must work in the field, and if their task be not completed, they get no dinner; "if he will not work neither shall he eat." 2 Thessalonians iii. 10.

It is scarcely to be believed how much pleasure these poor children derive from the lessons of astronomy, geography, and history; it is delightful to see how eagerly they throng and press round their teachers; how they beg them to proceed when we think they are weary; how they retain the knowledge thus imparted to them, and so far is it from giving them a distaste for their field labours, that they run to them with redoubled ardour, and instead of talking in that strain of vice and depravity to which they had been habituated, they discourse of their newly acquired ideas of science and useful knowledge.

Having proved that the morals of the children are in the greatest danger during the hours of amusements or repose, we constantly

endeavour to keep them at those times under the eye of a vigilant superintendant.

I contend that not only for the army and navy, but also for the mechanical trades, as well as domestic and farm service, this principle of education and training should be applied. The habits of virtue and temperance, the value of character, and the sense of shame thus early implanted, will enable them to resist the storms of temptation with which they are likely to be assailed in their progress towards maturity.

On the other hand, as every convict becomes the parent of convicts, so the more children you send to prison the more prisons will you require ; “increase of appetite doth grow on what it feeds.”

It has been calculated that we expend annually, in England and Wales, £716,457 in the following items :

Prosecutions for crime	186,915
Prisons	177,245
Maintenance	127,297
Transports	205,000
Penitentiary at Millbank	20,000

£716,457

Taking the average number of prisoners at 50,000 it would give £14. 6s. for each.

I have said nothing of the expense of the civil power to controul or to punish ; nor of the vast sums levied on the credulous by street beggars, calculated, according to the reports of a Committee of the House of Commons in 1820, at much more than a million sterling in the metropolis only, nor have I attempted to make any estimate of the property stolen or destroyed ; the losses at sea, owing in a great measure to drunkenness and ill-trained sailors, has been given by Mr. Buckingham, and repeated in the naval history of Great Britain, the whole forming an aggregate, which proves, in the clearest manner, that the cheapest, the safest, and the wisest plan is to train and to educate the children of the poor. The money alone given to street beggars in this country, would more than suffice to train and educate the children for the army and navy, and save the state the expenses enumerated in the preceding page.

APHORISMS.



ALTHOUGH we should never pass a day, if possible, without reading a portion of the Holy Scriptures, yet, as many a poor child, however well inclined, might not have an opportunity, and yet might have this little book by him, I have extracted a few of these valuable aphorisms, which are handed down to us as issuing from the lips and pen of the inspired writers; and the words of our Saviour, who spoke as never man spake; these I have endeavoured to make portable to the mind, and if young persons will take the trouble to fix them firmly in their memory, and refer as often as possible to the original source from whence they are copied, they will not fail to derive pleasure, comfort, and even profit, in a worldly point of view, inasmuch as their lawful gains will always be increased by honest and fair dealings.

PROVERBS.

CHAP. I.

Ver. 5. A wise man will hear and will increase learning.

7. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.

10. If sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

15. Walk not thou in the way with them.

[*Note.*—The whole of this chapter is a compendium of wisdom and sound advice.]

CHAP. II.

Ver. 10. When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul ;

11. Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee.

21. The upright shall dwell in the land.

22. But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth.

CHAP. III.

Ver. 3. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee.

5. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding.

7. Be not wise in thine own eyes.

9. Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase.

[*Note.*—The more wealth you acquire, the more abundantly give to the poor.]

10. So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

27. Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.

33. The curse of the Lord is in the house of the wicked, but he blesseth the habitation of the just.

35. The wise shall inherit glory, but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

CHAP. IV.

Ver. 23. Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.

CHAP. VI.

Ver. 6. Go to the ant, thou sluggard, consider her ways, and be wise.

16. These six things doth the Lord hate : yea, seven are an abomination unto him ;

17. A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood.

18. An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief.

19. A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

23. The commandment is a lamp ; and the law is light ; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life.

CHAP. VIII.

Ver. 17. I love them that love me ; and those that seek me early shall find me.

36. He that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul ; all they that hate me love death.

CHAP. X.

Ver. 2. Treasures of wickedness profit nothing ; but righteousness delivereth from death.

3. The Lord will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish, but he casteth away the substance of the wicked.

4. He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand ; but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

27. The fear of the Lord prolongeth days ; but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

CHAP. XI.

Ver. 1. A false balance is abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is his delight.

7. When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish ; and the hope of unjust men perisheth.

8. The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead.

17. The merciful man doeth good to his own soul ; but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh.

24. There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth ;

and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.

25. The liberal soul shall be made fat ; and he that watereth, shall be watered also himself.

29. He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind ; and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart.

CHAP. XII.

Ver. 10. A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast.

11. He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread.

16. A fool's wrath is presently known, but a prudent man covereth shame.

19. The lip of truth shall be established for ever ; but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

CHAP. XIII.

Ver. 1. A wise son heareth his father's instruction.

7. There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing ; there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.

11. Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished, but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.

13. Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed, but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.

CHAP. XIV.

Ver. 21. He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth ; but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.

31. He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker.

CHAP. XV.

Ver. 1. A soft answer turneth away wrath.

16. Better is little with the fear of the Lord, than great treasure and trouble therewith.

27. He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house, but he that hateth gifts shall live.

CHAP. XVI.

Ver. 3. Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.

7. When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

31. The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.

32. He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty ; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

CHAP. XVII.

Ver. 10. A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.

11. An evil man seeketh only rebellion ; therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him.

CHAP. XIX.

Ver. 1. Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.

17. He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he repay him again.

19. A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment, for if thou deliver him, yet thou must do it again.

CHAP. XX.

Ver. 14. It is nought, it is nought, saith the buyer; but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth.

22. Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the Lord, and he shall save thee.

CHAP. XXI.

Ver. 3. To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.

13. Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

CHAP. XXII.

Ver. 1. A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches.

6. Train up a child in the way he should go ; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

24. Make no friendship with an angry man.

26. Be not thou one of them that strike hands, or of them that are sureties for debts.

CHAP. XXIII.

Ver. 1. When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee.

2. And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite.

3. Be not desirous of his dainties ; for they are deceitful meat.

21. The drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty ; and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

CHAP. XXIV.

Ver. 21. My son, fear thou the Lord and the King, and meddle not with them that are given to change,

33. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep :

34. So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

CHAP. XXV.

Ver. 17. Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbour's house, lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee.

21. If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat ; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink.

CHAP. XXVIII.

Ver. 8. He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.

20. He that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

CHAP. XXIX.

Ver. 2. When the righteous are in authority the people rejoice ; but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

12. If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked.

14. The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established for ever.

15. The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

ECCLESIASTES.

CHAP. VII.

Ver. 20. For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

21. Take no heed unto all the words that are spoken, lest thou hear thy servant curse thee.

22. For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others.

CHAP. XII.

Ver. 1. Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth.

13. Fear God, and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

14. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil.

ISAIAH.

CHAP. I.

Ver. 17. Learn to do well ; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

CHAP. II.

Ver. 12. For the day of the Lord of Hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up, and he shall be brought low.

CHAP. III.

Ver. 10. Say ye to the righteous that it shall be well with him, for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.

11. Woe unto the wicked ! it shall be ill with him, for the reward of his hands shall be given him.

CHAP. V.

Ver. 8. Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth.

CHAP. XII.

Ver. 2. Behold, God is my salvation ; I will trust and not be afraid ; for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song ; he also is become my salvation.

ST. MATTHEW'S GOSPEL.

CHAP. V.

Ver. 6. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

7. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

8. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

34. Swear not at all.

CHAP. VII.

Ver. 1. Judge not, that ye be not judged.

CHAP. X.

Ver. 32. Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven ;

33. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

CHAP. XVI.

Ver. 26. For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

CHAP. XVIII.

Ver. 20. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

CHAP. XIX.

Ver. 14. Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of God.

CHAP. XXIII.

Ver. 12. Whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased, and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

CHAP. XXV.

Ver. 13. Watch, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh.

40. Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

MAXIMS FOR THE YOUNG PERSONS

IN THE

CHILDREN'S FRIEND SOCIETY.

Every young person entering the establishments of the Children's Friend Society is earnestly requested to attend to the following rules, a constant adherence to which will be the most grateful return they can make to their benefactors, and, at the same time, ensure their temporal and eternal happiness.

1. Never omit saying your prayers morning and night.
2. Never sit down to your repast without returning thanks to the Great Giver of it.
3. Seek every occasion of leisure and retirement to read your Bible.
4. Never omit any opportunity of attending divine worship.

5. Consider every child in our asylums as brothers and sisters, and seek every opportunity of serving them.

6. Consider all other children you may meet with as equally entitled to your kindness and affection.

7. Be as careful of the property of your master and mistress as of your own.

8. If you are placed to watch or attend to little children, be sure you are faithful to your trust, and remember how helpless you was yourself at their age.

9. Never tell a lie ; and, if you have done wrong, go and tell your employer.

10. Never strike any person, or do a spiteful action.

11. Never give an insolent or an impertinent answer.

12. Never allow any swearing, or any immodest or indecent word to disgrace your lips, because "ye are the temples of the living God."

13. When you meet with an accident, or break any thing, go directly and make it known to your employer.

14. Consider how you may avoid the like in future, and make all the amends in your power.

15. Should any one entice you to do wrong, quit their company, and tell your master or mistress.

16. Be cautious how you form new acquaintance.

17. When you are scolded by your superiors, do not answer them again ; only say you are very sorry for having deserved it.

18. When you are told to do any thing, make a cheerful answer, and set about it, and do not defer till to-morrow what can be done to-day.

19. Avoid drunkenness ; never drink any ardent or intoxicating liquor.

20. When boys embark on board of ship, let them be civil and obedient to all.

21. When girls embark on board of ship, let them be cautious never to speak to any of the crew, and to keep at all times, as much as possible, in the company of their matron.

22. Whenever you are sent on an errand, do it with all diligence.

23. Be always cleanly and tidy in your person.

24. Always lay by one-third of your earnings, and more, if possible.

25. Christ's Golden Rule, "do unto all as you would be done unto."

26. Never live in any family where the Sabbath-day is not kept holy.

27. Never joke on any subject named in the Sacred Writ. Dr. Johnson, I think, says, it is so easy to do it, that a witty man disdains it, and so impious, that a good man abhors it.

28. Never speak ill of any person, especially behind their backs.

29. Remember that no life is pleasing to God but that which is useful to man.

30. Never give people nick names, and never engage in any joke or pranks where the feelings of any one may be hurt.

If you attend rigidly to all these maxims, you will bring the blessing of God upon you, and whether you remain in this world, or are taken out of it, you will always be happy.

(Copy.)

ORDINANCE

*Enacted by the Governor of the Cape of Good Hope,
with the Advice and Consent of the Legislative
Council thereof,*

For appointing and authorizing certain Persons to be Commissioners, and to act as Guardians to Emigrants, being Minors, sent to this Colony from the United Kingdom, by a Society known by the style of "The Children's Friend Society."

WHEREAS a society, entitled "The Children's Friend Society," has lately been formed in London, for the purpose of affording relief to poor and destitute children, and the said society has formed an establishment for the care, maintenance, and education of such children, with a view of the binding them as apprentices in England, or to respectable in-

dividuals in the colonies : and whereas, in order that persons in this colony desirous of obtaining the services of children from the said institution may be enabled to exercise a legal authority over them, it is necessary that some persons be authorized to act as guardians for and on behalf of such children, with power to apprentice or otherwise provide for them as to their said guardians may appear most expedient.

II. Be it therefore enacted, that from and after the passing of this ordinance, Samuel Bailey, Esq. surgeon of Somerset hospital,—Rev. Jas. Beck, missionary,—Ewan Christian, Esq. merchant,—John Fairbairn, Esq.—James Rose Innes, Esq. A.M. Professor of the South African College,—John Marshall, Esq. President of the Discount Bank,—John Murray, Esq. M.D. Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals,—Rev. John Pears, A.M. Rev. John Philip, D.D. Directors of London Missions in South Africa,—Rev. Barnabas Shaw, Director of Wesleyan Missions in South Africa,—Howson Edwards Rutherford, Esq. merchant,—and John Harfield Tredgold, Esq. chemist and druggist—be nominated and ap-

pointed commissioners, under the style or title of "Commissioners for the Guardianship of Juvenile Emigrants," for the purposes hereinafter mentioned, with full power and authority to carry into effect provisions in this ordinance hereinafter named.

III. And be it further enacted, that it shall not be lawful for the said commissioners to receive, or take under their charge, any children, either male or female, sent from the united kingdom to this colony, by the society before mentioned, unless the said society shall transmit a list of such children, signed by the secretary thereof, in which shall be particularly specified the names and ages, and, if known, the parentage of each and every child so sent; and the statements in such lists shall be considered and taken as *prima facie* evidence of the facts therein contained.

IV. And be it further enacted, that on the arrival of any children sent out in the manner aforesaid, and from time to time, so often as occasion may require, it shall be lawful for the said commissioners, or any one of them, duly authorized to act in the name and on behalf of the said commissioners, to bind such

children as apprentices to the persons at whose instance they may have been sent out, or to such other as may be desirous of obtaining their services, and who shall have been approved of by the said commissioners,—such apprenticeship to continue in force until the child, if male, shall have attained the age of twenty-one years, and if female, until such female shall have attained the age of twenty-one years, or shall be married, whichever shall first happen,—except in such case in which it shall be considered expedient by the said commissioners to limit the apprenticeship, to a shorter period;—and the said commissioners, or any one of them, acting on behalf and by authority of the rest, shall, jointly with the master or mistress of the said apprentice, execute and sign a form of indenture, to contain such provisions and covenants for the protection of the interest of such apprentice as to the said commissioners may appear desirable,—which said indenture shall be good, valid, and binding, to all intents and purposes;—and the said apprentices and their masters or mistresses shall be subject and liable to the laws now in force, or which may

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hereafter be made, relating to apprentices or indentured servants, other than apprenticed labourers.

V. And be it further enacted, that it shall be the duty of the said commissioners to afford all lawful and necessary protection to the said apprentices, and enforce the performance of the covenants contained in any indenture for the benefit of such apprentices, —and if any person shall neglect or refuse to perform the conditions of such indenture made in pursuance of this ordinance, he shall be liable and subject to an action upon such indenture at the suit of the said commissioners, as guardians for such apprentice; and if, on being sued for any neglect of the said conditions, the commissioner shall obtain a judgment against him or her, such person shall not shew cause to the satisfaction of the court awarding such judgment for such neglect or refusal, he or she shall pay to the said commissioners such costs of suit as any judge or magistrate shall in his discretion allow; and the said commissioners shall and they are hereby authorized to bring or defend any action or suit touching or concerning

any of the property, rights, or claims of the said commissioners or their wards, in the name of "the Commissioners for the Guardianship of Juvenile Emigrants," without specifying the names of the commissioners, and without other description, and no action shall abate by reason of the death or going out of office of any commissioner,—and that whenever it shall be necessary for the said commissioners to execute any deed or instrument in writing, such deed or instrument shall be signed in the name of the commissioners by some person or persons, appointed for that purpose by such commissioners, and every such deed or instrument signed in manner herein provided, shall have the same effect in law as if it had been signed by all the commissioners.

VI. And be it further enacted, that upon the death, resignation, or departure from the colony of any of the commissioners aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the remaining commissioners to elect some fit and proper person to fill up the vacancy so created, and they are hereby required to complete the said election within twenty-eight days from the

period of such vacancy taking place,—and within fourteen days after the completion of the said election to publish the name of the commissioner so elected in the *Government Gazette* of this colony, for the information and guidance of all persons whom it may concern.

VII. And be it further enacted, that the said commissioners shall not be liable for any expenses incurred in bringing out or supporting the said children, further than they themselves shall expressly undertake and become responsible for; and that every indenture made under this ordinance, shall continue to be valid and binding upon and in favour of the successors of such commissioners to be appointed as aforesaid.

VIII. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for the said commissioners from time to time, as it may become necessary, to hire apartments, to provide furniture, books, and other necessities, and to appoint officers and servants necessary for the transaction of the business of the said commissioners, and to defray the costs and charges of the same respectively out of any fund which may

belong or accrue to the said commissioners as aforesaid.

God save the King!

Given at the Cape of Good Hope, this 26th day of May, 1836.

By command of his Excellency the Governor,

(Signed) JOHN BELL,
Secretary to Government.

By order of the Legislative Council,

(Signed) K. B. HAMILTON,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

A PRAYER,

To be used in the Schools of the Children's Friend Society, previous to embarkation for the Colonies and during their voyage.

“O Thou that rulest the raging of the sea, who hast compassed the earth with bounds until day and night come to an end,” be pleased to hear our humble prayer.

It is to Thy goodness we owe all our present temporal blessings; it was Thy Holy Spirit which inspired our benefactors to come to our rescue when we were in want and in trouble, ignorant of Thy holy word, and in danger of everlasting destruction.

Seeing we owe all these mercies to Thy bounty, and that Thou hast saved us from the greater dangers of vice and wickedness, vouchsafe Thy aid and protection in this our intended voyage. Let thy mighty arm support and guide us while we are on the deep and pathless ocean; put good and holy thoughts into the hearts of those who may have

charge of our persons. Grant us Thy grace, that we may faithfully discharge our duty ; give us health and vigour to perform the same. Grant that we may be the instruments to spread Thy Gospel among the heathen and the nations that have not called on Thy name : preserve in peace and comfort, we pray Thee, all our parents, friends, and companions whom we leave behind ; send down thy choicest blessing on our good King and our beloved country. Grant that the empire of Britain, which Thou hast established and defended, may ever be the seat of true religion, justice, mercy, and truth ; and grant that in whatsoever part of the world our lot may be cast, that we may never forget Thee, our God ; and this we beg for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

PSALM CXIX.

Boys.

How shall the young preserve their ways
From all pollution free ?
By making still their course of life
With Thy commands agree.

Girls.

With hearty zeal for Thee I seek,
To Thee for succour pray ;
O suffer not my infant steps
From Thy right paths to stray.

Boys.

Safe in my heart, and closely hid,
Thy word, my treasure, lies,
To succour me with timely aid,
When sinful thoughts arise.

All.

Secured by that, my grateful soul
Shall ever bless thy name
O teach me then by Thy just laws
My future life to frame.

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